2014 HALL OF FAME WEEKEND

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

RIVALS DE LA HOYA AND TRINIDAD HONORED TOGETHER
P.52

KING CARL

FROCH RULES BRITAIN AFTER HIS DRAMATIC KO OF GEORGE GROVES P.38

WHEN TO STOP A FIGHT

A REFEREE'S MOST CRUCIAL DECISION
P.64

MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD

GOODBYE TO AN ADMIRED WARRIOR
P.78

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI

BORN TO BROADCAST
P.84

SHAWN PORTER

TRADED FOOTBALL FOR A WORLD TITLE P.70

SEPTEMBER 2014

0 72246 00396 1

$8.95

BOXING

THE NEW LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP HAS ARRIVED

AVAILABLE AT WWW.ATHLETEPS.COM

APS
ATHLETE PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS, LLC

The RING SEPTEMBER 2014

FEATURES

38 EPIC NIGHT AT WEMBLEY
CARL FROCH CEMENTS HIS LEGACY WITH A ONE-PUNCH KO
By Elliot Worsell

52 HALL OF FAME WEEKEND
DE LA HOYA, TRINIDAD MEET AGAIN IN CANASTOTA, N.Y.
By Bernard Fernandez

58 1984 OLYMPICS ANNIVERSARY
THE U.S.' NINE GOLD MEDALS ISN'T LIKELY TO BE TOPPED
By Bernard Fernandez

64 REF'S TOUGHEST DUTY
THE TIMING OF STOPPAGES IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE
By Norm Frauenheim

70 RISE OF A WELTERWEIGHT
SHAWN PORTER HAS CLAWED HIS WAY TO THE TOP
By Ron Borges

78 MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD: 1954-2014
BOXING LOSES ONE OF ITS MOST EXCITING WARRIORS
By Bernard Fernandez

84 THE NATURAL
PAULIE MALIGNAGGI EXCELS BEHIND THE MICROPHONE
By Tim Smith

70

IBF welterweight titleholder Shawn Porter has emerged as a fighter to be feared.

JEFF BOTTARI/GOLDEN BOY

COVER PHOTO BY HOWARD SCHATZ

DEPARTMENTS

6 RINGSIDE

7 OPENING SHOTS

12 COME OUT WRITING

15 ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES
Jabs and Straight Writes by Thomas Hauser

20 READY TO GRUMBLE
By David Greisman

23 OUTSIDE THE ROPES
By Brian Harty

25 PERFECT EXECUTION
By Bernard Hopkins

30 RING RATINGS PACKAGE

44 BEST I'VE FACED: CARL FROCH
By Tom Gray

46 LETTERS FROM EUROPE
By Gareth A Davies

90 DOUGIE'S MAILBAG
By Doug Fischer

92 NEW FACES: RANDY CABALLERO
By Keith Idec

94 SWEET SCIENCE
By Scott LaFee

96 WOMEN'S BOXING
By Thomas Gerbasi

98 AMATEUR BOXING
By Joe Santoliquito

100 RINGSIDE REPORTS
By Norm Frauenheim

106 WORLDWIDE RESULTS

108 COMING UP

112 FROM THE ARCHIVE

114 AT THE FIGHTS

AT RINGTV.COM

DRAWING POWER?
GEALE FIGHT WILL HELP GOLOVKIN ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT STAR POTENTIAL
GO TO: http://bit.ly/golovkin-geale

BRADLEY AT PEACE
LOSS IN REMATCH WITH PACQUIAO LIFTED A WEIGHT FROM HIS SHOULDERS
GO TO: http://bit.ly/bradleyatpeace

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON:

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RINGTV

@RINGMAGAZINE

YouTube THERINGDIGITAL

HTTP://INSTAGRAM.COM/RINGTV#

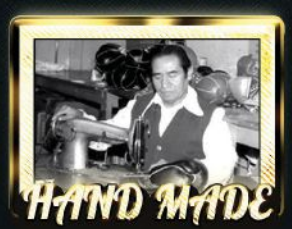
46

George Groves (right) came up short against Carl Froch on May 31 in London.

NATFLETCHER1922

Los Guantes de los Campeones

store.cletoreyes.com
ANAHEIM STORE
1808 N National Street
Anaheim, CA 92801



www.cletoreyes.com
SAN DIEGO STORE
2625 Imperial Ave,
San Diego, CA 92102

/cletoreyesusa
/cletoreyesteam
/Cleto Reyes USA
cletoreyesboxingequipment

Ph. (619) 863 4557

Look for our authorized dealers

A VISIT TO BOXING HEAVEN

The International Boxing Hall of Fame is heaven for the fighters. Ask any of them. They'll tell you.

Every year in June boxing royalty makes its way from far flung places to the wonderful little town of Canastota in central New York to be celebrated by the gracious local residents and passionate, hard-core boxing fans who make the annual trek.

For the inductees, the honor is invariably overwhelming even if they were certain it was coming. I ran into Joe Calzaghe outside Graziano's, the social hub of the weekend and one of the best Italian restaurants on the planet. The unbeaten Welshman seemed to be in a daze as I congratulated him. He offered a warm handshake and very genuine smile but seemed to be at a loss for words.

"It's all so overwhelming," he said.

I also ran into Enzo Calzaghe, Joe's father and career-long trainer, in the museum immediately after the induction ceremony. Joe made Enzo a central part of his acceptance speech, calling his dad his best friend and thanking him for all he had done. I said to Enzo, "You must be incredibly proud." His eyes filled with tears and he could only nod.

Richard Steele, a former Marine, had just started his acceptance speech when he had to pause to fight back tears, which forced those in attendance to do the same – if they could. Felix Trinidad, his head bowed, also battled his emotions when he heard the familiar chant of "TITO! TITO! TITO" from his many fans.

And Oscar De La Hoya, the star of this year's weekend, beamed as his fans followed suit by serving up a spirited "OSCAR! OSCAR! OSCAR!" The Golden Boy received such adulation throughout his career. Still, you couldn't wipe the smile from his face from the time he arrived in Canastota.

"The Olympic gold and the Hall of Fame are by far the best moments of my life in boxing," he told me.

Then there are the older, perhaps more forgotten fighters who return year after year, one-time warriors like Leon Spinks and Iran Barkley. The rest of the year, they struggle with life to some degree in anonymity. However, on this weekend, they're superstars once again and treated as such by everyone. It means the world to them.

I love the Parade of Champions, a procession of high-school bands, marching members of various clubs and convertible cars carrying both local figures and legendary fighters as thousands line a main street plucked directly out of 1950s small-town America.

Nothing is more heartwarming than to see the joy on the faces of the fighters as they pass by to the cheers of the fans, a moment of validation that many experience only in Canastota these days.

One of the fighters in the parade was Zou Shiming of China, who won three consecutive Olympic medals and now fights professionally. I didn't get a chance to talk to him but, based on his reaction to the fans, it was fairly clear that he was taken aback by it all.

He had to be thinking, "This is something very special."

And, indeed, it is. I always tell people that they should experience Hall of Fame weekend at least once. That's the only way to really understand what happens there every year. And I can guarantee you one thing: You'll never forget it.

The RING

VOLUME 93, NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2014

FOUNDER
Nathaniel Fleischer
(1888-1972)

EDITOR
Michael Rosenthal

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Douglass Fischer

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Brian Harty

ART DIRECTOR
Lamar Clark

CONTROLLER
Deborah L. Harrison

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
Robert Gasparri
213-233-2952
sepub@sepublications.com

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
BACK ISSUES INQUIRIES
DIGITAL ORDERS INQUIRIES
Sports and Entertainment Publications
P.O. BOX 433122
Palm Coast, Fl 32164-3122
800-846-6438
thering@emailcustomerservice.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
or P.O. BOX 251753,
Los Angeles CA, 90025

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 93, NO. 9 (SEPTEMBER 2014), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, PO Box 90254 Brooklyn, NY 11209. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY 11209 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription price $58.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2014 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES: (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

Carl Froch followed his brutal knockout of George Groves with a tender moment, a marriage proposal to girlfriend Rachael Cordingley as 80,000 at Wembley Stadium looked on. Froch said it was "unofficial" because he didn't have a ring. Still, she said "yes." (See Page 38.)

EVERLAST
EVERLAST
el Vocero de Puerto Rico
LANCO
MECH TECH College
FILIPENSES 4:13
TOP RANK

Sergio Martinez's failing body and a strong performance by Miguel Cotto (left) added up to a bad night for the popular Argentine on June 7. (See page 102.)

RICH SCHULTZ/GETTY IMAGES

Former heavyweight champ Vitali Klitschko is a winner in retirement: He was recently elected mayor of Kiev, the capital city of troubled Ukraine.

YURIY KIRNICHNY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

COME OUT WRITING

HISTORY MADE

We can never count out a world-class boxer, especially a future Hall of Famer. This time it's Miguel Cotto. Cotto brought a fight to Sergio Martinez that he never saw coming on June 7 in New York. Even when Martinez had injuries in the past, he always came out on top of his opponents. He was unbeaten for more than four years. On the other side, Cotto is a fighter that we all know. His better days are behind him, and not too many people thought he would win. Cotto then showed why he's a world-class fighter, giving Martinez a beating and becoming the first Puerto Rican fighter to win titles in four different weight classes.

Jose Baez
Manati, P.R.

TARNISHED LEGACY?

If a limited fighter like Marcos Maidana could fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. to a very close decision, what would have happened if Mayweather faced Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Wilfredo Benitez or Aaron Pryor? Mayweather escaped with a close decision, but his legacy took a major hit from which it will never recover.

Patrick Stamps
Las Vegas

MAIDANA NOT DESERVING

Kicks to the groin, rabbit punches, punches below the belt, wrestling take downs, instructions from his corner to fight dirty if necessary. C'mon, this is boxing, not MMA. Marcos Maidana, seven years younger and 20 pounds heavier, had his shot at Floyd Mayweather Jr. and he blew it. But some people say he deserves a rematch. Are you serious? Mayweather, with three fights left on his contract, deserves better. More-deserving fighters should get a shot – Amir Khan, Keith Thurman, Shawn Porter. As for Maidana, kick that clown to the curb.

Gerald Felton
Baltimore

TRAGIC TEMPLATE

So now Felix Trinidad has allegedly been cheated out of his fortune by yet another so-called financial adviser (July 2014 issue). This has too often been the template for boxers. It's virtually a cliché. Perhaps you should ask Bernard Hopkins to give financial advice along with his boxing tips. He seems to be nobody's fool. At any rate, this tragic template needs to be broken once and for all.

Richard Haglund
Mound City, Kan.

CLEVER, BUT CRUEL?

After enduring the ongoing "Cold War" and seeing an unknown music manager named Al Haymon become THE major player in the boxing world, it has come to my attention just how this man is putting some of his fighters against one another. Haymon doesn't just have a horse in the race, he has both horses, and though that's not uncommon with promoters, it is for "managers." The Haymon fighter is broken simply into two groups, the winners and the losers. The winners are known entities who usually have zero losses (i.e. Danny Garcia and Peter Quillin) and are kept out of harm's way. The losers are the ones who Haymon knows can excite people but cannot ever really make it to elite status (i.e. Lucas Matthysse and B.J. Flores). He uses the one to promote the other, making a boatload of money for himself on both men's backs. It is a cruel way to treat these pugilists in an already cruel industry.

Matthew Becher
Kingston, N.Y.

MAKE YOUR MOVE, DEONTAY

It's easy to believe or hope that Deontay Wilder and Wladimir Klitschko are on a collision course. It's also not difficult to see that "Camp Wilder" is waiting for Klitschko to slow down a bit. But they might just miss the KO Express. It doesn't take a genius to know that Wladimir might not be fighting much longer. His dream was to rule atop the heavyweight division with his brother. That has been accomplished in spades. It's very possible that Wladimir has lost his primary reason for fighting. He certainly has nothing to prove. Still, team Wilder is waiting. But they might just wait one fight too long. In the ring, Wilder is not ready for Wladimir. However, financially, he probably can't afford to wait any longer. Make it happen, Deontay. Wladimir doesn't need you or anyone else in boxing. You need him more than you may realize.

Troy Morris
Harrisburg, Pa.

WRITE TO THE RING! Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 251753, Los Angeles, CA 90025
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com ★ Emailed letters will include a writer's email address unless a city and state of origin is provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

DOWNLOAD The RING APP

AND PREVIEW THE DIGITAL EDITION FOR FREE!

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY.

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

The RING

ringtv.com®

RingTV.com gives you on a daily basis what the THE RING magazine gives you each month – the best boxing coverage in the world.

Here are just a few of the many features on RingTV.com:

The most-complete day-to-day coverage of the boxing world, including news, award-winning feature stories and photos, unparalleled previews and live fight coverage.

The world's most-respected ratings in all 17 weight classes and pound for pound updated every week.

Live streams of fight cards, weigh-ins, interviews and more.

RingTV, our periodic show featuring RING Editors Doug Fischer and Michael Rosenthal, in which we review past fights and look forward to upcoming events.

High-quality videos of a variety of events and interviews with the biggest names in the sport.

Up-to-date schedule of major boxing cards.

ONE GOLDEN ROUND

Zbigniew Pietrzykowski (right) found great pleasure in Muhammad Ali's success after they fought in the 1960 Olympics.

JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**

BY THOMAS HAUSER

THE LATE **ZBIGNIEW PIETRZYKOWSKI** HAD A LEAD ON **CASSIUS CLAY** BEFORE LOSING THE GOLD-MEDAL MATCH IN THE 1960 OLYMPICS

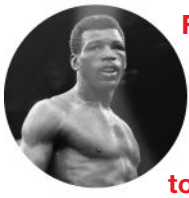
Zbigniew Pietrzykowski, who died at 79 in his native Poland on May 21, had an illustrious amateur career. He won gold medals at the European Amateur Boxing Championships in 1955, 1957, 1959 and 1963 and bronze medals at the Olympics in 1956 and 1964. But he's best known for a fight that was contested at the Rome Olympics on Sept. 5, 1960. That day, Pietrzykowski lost in the gold-medal match to an 18-year-old American named Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.

Clay had won his first three bouts in the 178-pound division. But in the first round against Pietrzykowski, he seemed a bit intimidated by his opponent's physical strength and confused by the Pole's southpaw style. Pietrzykowski outlanded him by a 16-11 margin.

Then, in Round 2, Clay established his jab and began scoring with sharp right hands for a 15-11 edge. By round three, he'd figured Pietrzykowski out and outlanded his foe 28-9, leaving the Pole dazed and bloodied at the final bell for a unanimous-decision triumph.

Pietrzykowski never turned pro. But in a sense, Muhammad Ali's later victories became his own. Decades later, the Polish fighter reminisced about those three rounds at the Rome Olympics and declared, "During the fight itself, I had to work at a very fast pace to avoid his punches. This was good for the

first round. Clay was missing a lot of punches. But in the second round, I realized I was losing my strength and that it would be difficult for me to survive three rounds. I had to think about defense, and that hampered thoughts of victory. It left me with nothing else but to try to survive three rounds and not be knocked out. I would have done anything then to beat him. But later, I began to cherish his victories." ★



Former light heavyweight champion Matthew Saad Muhammad died on May 25 at the much-too-young age of 59.

Saad Muhammad came from hard surroundings. His birth mother died when he was young. At age four or five, he was found wandering by police along a Philadelphia highway. Raised by nuns as "Matthew Franklin," he later changed his name after converting to Islam.

Saad Muhammad fought like a 175-pound Arturo Gatti. And he did it in an era when the light heavyweight division was particularly deep. His wars against a succession of top opponents, highlighted by a 32-month reign as WBC champion, became part of the consciousness of a generation.

Saad dealt out beatings, and he absorbed them. He was always willing to go in tough. In the glory years, he defeated Marvin Johnson, Yaqui Lopez and John Conteh twice each and suffered losses at the hands of Dwight Muhammad Qawi (twice) and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad. Thirteen losses on the downside of his career dropped his final record to 49-16-3.

Seven years ago, I had occasion to talk with Saad Muhammad about the first professional fight he ever saw. His recollection of that night offers a clue as to his fighting style.

"It was at the Blue Horizon in Philadelphia," Saad Muhammad told me. "I was 17 years old. My amateur coach took me, and the fighters were punishing each other like Rock'em Sock'em Robots. It was like Hollywood. No normal man could take that kind of punishment. But they had victory in their eyes, and I could see that the desire to win lessened the pain they felt. My coach said to me, 'This is what it's going to be like if you turn pro. To win, you'll have to condition yourself physically and mentally. Do you think you can do this?' And I told him, 'Whatever it takes, I'm going to do this. I can take the punishment. I can take the pain.'" ★

Don King

STILL KICKING

Like Cary Grant clinging to the edge of a cliff in *North By Northwest*, Don King was about to plummet into oblivion.

King was once the most powerful promoter in boxing. And the heavyweights were his personal empire. At one point during Larry Holmes's championship reign, King controlled 11 of the 12 top-ranked challengers in boxing's flagship division.

But that was long ago. King will be 83 years old on Aug. 20. His stable of fighters has been depleted. So has his staff, as longtime lieutenants like Bobby Goodman and Alan Hopper moved on. The only fighter of note that King had left was Bermane Stiverne. And Stiverne was down on the judges' scorecards as Round 6 of his May 10 WBC title bout against Chris Arreola began.

The fight was contested at USC's Galen Center with a meager 3,992 fans in attendance. Throughout the night, ESPN blow by-blow announcer Joe Tessitore had spoken reverentially of the WBC belt, a trinket that writer Jimmy Tobin has labeled "the appropriately-colored slime-green alphabet strap." King had gone unmentioned during the telecast despite his on-camera presence in the second row of the technical zone.

Then, midway through Round 6, Stiverne landed a sweeping right hand on Arreola's temple. Chris went down, rose, was knocked down again, rose for a second time and was helpless against the ropes when referee Jack Reiss stopped the fight.

Wladimir Klitschko (who holds the RING, IBF, WBA and WBO belts and is boxing's true heavyweight champion) wants to fight Stiverne to unify the belts. Similarly, King would like Stiverne to fight Klitschko. A victory over Wladimir would give DK the heavyweight throne to bargain with.

"Don't forget," King chortled at the Stiverne-Arreola post-fight press conference. "Lamon Brewster knocked Klitschko out [in 2004, the last time Wladimir was beaten]. That was mine, too."

But Deontay Wilder is the WBC's mandatory challenger. And Wilder is managed by Al Haymon. King no longer has sufficient influence to offset their power.

It would be good for boxing to have just one heavyweight champion. So whatever happens, look for it to have at least two for a while.

Meanwhile, in the ring after the Stiverne-Arreola fight, Stiverne seemed to thank everyone but Don King. That omission wouldn't have occurred during DK's glory years. ★

MUHAMMAD: THE RING MAGAZINE; KING: STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES; LEDERMAN: MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES FOR HBO

QUICK QUIZ

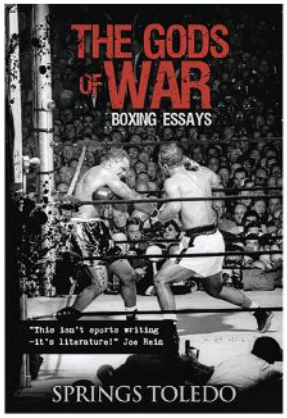
1. THE FIRST FIGHT CARD IN THE CURRENT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN WAS CONTESTED ON MARCH 4, 1968. WHO FOUGHT IN THE MAIN EVENT?

« **2.** WHAT WAS THE "DAY JOB" OF HBO'S HAROLD LEDERMAN FOR FIVE DECADES?

3. WHO WAS THE LAST MAN TO KNOCK MUHAMMAD ALI DOWN IN A PROFESSIONAL FIGHT?

Quick Quiz Answers: 1. There was a co-feature that night. First, Nino Benvenuti won a 15-round decision over Emile Griffith in their rubber match to reclaim the world middleweight championship. Then, with Muhammad Ali in exile, Joe Frazier scored an 11th-round knockout over Buster Mathis to win the New York State "world" heavyweight title. ✶ **2.** Harold Lederman was, and still is, a licensed pharmacist. ✶ **3.** Chuck Wepner was credited with a knockdown in Round 9 of his 1975 fight against The Greatest. But replays showed that he was stepping on Ali's foot when the punch landed. Prior to that, Ali had been knocked down by Joe Frazier and, as Cassius Clay, by Henry Cooper and Sonny Banks.

ON THE BOOKSHELF



The Gods of War

by Springs Toledo is divided into three parts. The first consists of seven essays on boxing. The second, composed of four essays, focuses on Sonny Liston (who Toledo suggests would have emerged triumphant from a round-robin tournament contested among the 27 heavyweight champions from Jack Dempsey to the Klitschkos). These sections are followed by 10 essays and supporting statistical data that lead to a ranking of the 20 "greatest fighters of the modern era," according to Toledo.

Toledo is a gifted writer, and some parts of *The Gods of War* are very good. He starts with a quote from A.J. Liebling, who after souring on boxing decided to journey to Indianapolis for the 1959 heavyweight title bout between Floyd Patterson and Brian London.

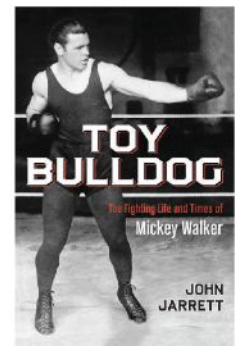
"I felt," Liebling wrote afterward, "the elation of a man who said a lot of hard things about a woman and is now on his way to make up."

Toledo also tells the tale of a heavyweight named Lonnie Craft (aka Battling Blackjack), who fought 41 times between 1938 and 1954 and was executed in 1959 by the State of Arizona for first-degree murder.

Craft, Toledo recounts, "walked to the gas chamber as if he were walking to the ring, wearing boxing gloves, shoes, trunks, and robe. An ex-fighter needed to feel brave one more time."

But then there are the rankings. Toledo evaluates fighters based on seven criteria: 1. quality of opposition; 2. ring generalship; 3. longevity; 4. dominance; 5. durability; 6. performance against larger opponents; and 7. intangibles. Based on these factors, he ranks Harry Greb as the greatest fighter of boxing's modern era.

A lot of knowledgeable boxing fans will have a problem with that. And they'll have a bigger problem with rankings that place Holman Williams in the Top 20 while Sugar Ray Leonard and Carlos Monzon don't make the cut.



McFarland Books keeps expanding its list of boxing titles. ***Toy Bulldog: The Fighting Life and Times of Mickey Walker*** by John Jarrett is a recent addition to the list. The writing is a bit ponderous. But for anyone interested in learning more about one of boxing's legendary champions, the facts are there.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Reflections: Conversations, Essays, and Other Writings*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

This month: The highest-paid athletes overall and boxers in the Top 10 from the past decade, according to *Forbes Magazine*. The totals include money earned from salary and endorsements.

No athlete made more money than Floyd Mayweather Jr. over the past year.

2005: Tiger Woods ($87 million); No. 3: Oscar De La Hoya ($38 million)

2006: Woods ($90 million); No. 3: Muhammad Ali ($55 million)

2007: Woods ($100 million); No. 2: De La Hoya ($43 million)

2008: Woods ($115 million); no boxers in Top 10

2009: Woods ($110 million); No. 6: Manny Pacquiao ($34 million)

2010: Woods ($105 million); No. 2: Floyd Mayweather Jr. ($65 million)

2011: Woods ($75 million); no boxers in Top 10

2012: Mayweather ($85 million)

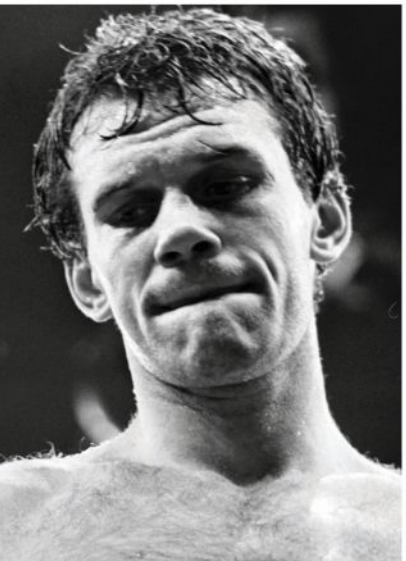
2013: Woods ($78.1 million); no boxers in Top 10

2014: Mayweather ($105 million)

Note: *Forbes* uses a calendar from June to June, therefore Mayweather's 2013 included only his bout with Robert Guerrero, ranking him at No. 14 with $34 million.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Carl Froch, coming off his sensational knockout of George Groves, is only the latest fighter from Great Britain to hold a super middleweight title. The very first universally recognized 168-pound champion – from any country – was Murray Sutherland of Scotland, who outpointed Ernie Singletary in 15 rounds to win the vacant IBF title in the newly created weight class in 1984. Froch currently wears the same belt so THE RING thought it would be appropriate to link Sutherland with Froch.



« **MURRAY SUTHERLAND** fought …

THOMAS HEARNS, who fought …

VIRGIL HILL, who fought …

ROY JONES JR., who fought …

GLEN JOHNSON, who fought …

CARL FROCH »

— **Michael Rosenthal**

EMAIL YOUR ADVANCED DEGREES TO COMEOUTWRITING@SEPUBLICATIONS.COM.

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

Vasyl Lomachenko has been a breath of fresh air. The former amateur star from Ukraine could've gone the typical route, fighting pushovers to build up his pro record and reputation until he was certain to make big money later on. Instead, he put it all on the line right out of the gate. He fought veteran Orlando Salido for the WBO featherweight title in only his second recognized pro fight. He lost a split decision but showed the world what he had. Then on June 21 he went head to head against another gifted young boxer in Gary Russell Jr. for the same title, which became vacant when Salido failed to make weight against Lomachenko. This time he succeeded, efficiently pounding his way to a majority-decision victory. Lomachenko clearly believes he can compete with anyone in the world or he wouldn't have elected to take this career path. Still, it was a calculated gamble. Salido is a rough character with a lot of experience; he could've beaten up Lomachenko. Russell also was an accomplished amateur and might have the quickest hands in boxing; Lomachenko couldn't have known for sure what he was up against. He was willing to take risks at a time when many fighters do all they can to avoid them.

BAD

I can understand why most people focused on the performance of Miguel Cotto in the aftermath of his 10th-round stoppage of Sergio Martinez on June 7 in New York. Of course, Cotto deserves credit for the victory. The future Hall of Famer never looked better in adding the RING and WBC middleweight titles to his long list of achievements, which also now includes becoming the first Puerto Rican to win major titles in four weight divisions. However, from my perspective, the story of that fight – a sad story – was Martinez. The swift, athletic Argentine we got to know over the past several years was not the one who stepped into the ring against Cotto. This version, crippled with a damaged knee, was helpless against a fighter of Cotto's caliber. The winner beat half a man, one who once dazzled us with his athleticism and quickness but now can't get his body to follow his instructions. Nothing in boxing is more painful to watch than a once-proud thoroughbred struggling. The good news is that Martinez had a great run, which he culminated by winning the world middleweight championship. He'll always have that.

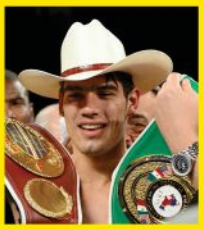
WORSE

A lot has been written now about the life of Matthew Saad Muhammad, who died at 59 on June 16 of Lou Gehrig's disease. His rise from an orphaned child to a world champion and one of the most exciting fighters ever is inspiring. The last few years of his life were less inspiring. Saad Muhammad made a good living in boxing; by the end, all the money was gone. He reportedly lived in the basement of a friend's home and then spent time in a homeless shelter. Through it all, Saad Muhammad remained the jovial man he had always been. Still, his plight is all too familiar and heartbreaking. Imagine how many other fighters end up in a similar situation, men (and maybe women) who fight their hearts out for us and then end up forgotten and destitute in part because too few people are looking out for them. The number is probably higher than we'd like to think. I don't know the solution but I'll reiterate an old idea: A specific, federally mandated portion of the profits from every card goes upon retirement to the fighters on that card. Someone needs to make that happen.

MAYWEATHER: FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; RAMIREZ: CHRIS FARINA / TOP RANK; GEALE: FRIEDEMANN VOGEL; LOMACHENKO: ETHAN MILLER; SUTHERLAND: THE RING MAGAZINE; FROCH: SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

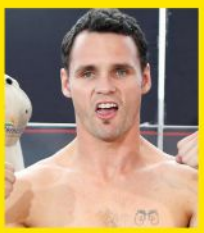
WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT



GILBERTO RAMIREZ

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER

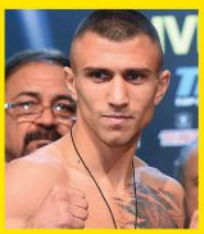
MUSIC - "Banda music, traditional music from Sinaloa very popular in Mexico, [and] reggaeton – it's Latino music, like reggae with rap." ★ **CAR -** "My dream car [is a] luxury Hummer [or] yellow Ferrari." ★ **FOOD -** "Mexican food, seafood, pasta." ★ **TATTOOS -** "None yet, but last name and tribal in the future." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "Michael Phelps (swimmer). I love to swim at the beach; it's part of my training." ★ **MOVIE -** "*Requiem for a Dream, Resident Evil.*" ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "Xbox *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas.*"



DANIEL GEALE

MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC - "Pearl Jam." ★ **CAR -** "Currently drive a Holden Calais." ★ **FOOD -** "Seafood." ★ **TATTOOS -** "I have quite a few tattoos. First one was boxing gloves on my chest. Second was a tag on my ankle: 'Made in AUS,' I got this in Colorado. My back tattoo represents my family in various ways. I have names of my children on my left forearm in a band. My recent one is the infinity sign on my right forearm with the wording 'family' and 'faith.'" ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "I have always held Michael Jordan as one of my all-time greatest athletes." ★ **MOVIE -** "*Point Break.*" ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "*PGA Golf* on Wii."



VASYL LOMACHENKO

FEATHERWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC - "Almost anything, but not rock." ★ **CAR -** "Nissan GT-R." ★ **FOOD –** "Pasta." ★ **TATTOOS -** "[Each of] the tattoos I have means something to me or is part of my life." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "Blake Griffin (basketball)." ★ **MOVIE -** "Comedy." ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "*Gran Turismo.*"

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

RingTV.com readers apparently are sold on The Cobra. We asked: **What would be the result of a fight between Carl Froch and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.?** More than 67 percent of you believe Froch would win. Here are the percentages.

THE PERCENTAGES:

FROCH BY DECISION 37.70

FROCH BY KO 29.59

CHAVEZ BY KO 20.51

CHAVEZ BY DECISION 11.07

DRAW 1.12

Note: 1,960 readers voted

By **David Greisman**

COTTO DESERVES CREDIT

THE PUERTO RICAN'S VICTORY WAS AS MUCH ABOUT HIS ABILITY AS SERGIO MARTINEZ'S FAILING BODY

Miguel Cotto never looked better than he did against Sergio Martinez.

RICH SCHULTZ/GETTY IMAGES

Miguel Cotto was as much of an afterthought as possible for a fighter who was sure to bring 20,000 people to Madison Square Garden and have hundreds of thousands more pay to watch him challenge Sergio Martinez on pay-per-view.

Yes, Cotto's star status gave him the ability to seek a catchweight lower than the middleweight limit and to demand that he be marketed and announced in a manner typically reserved for the champion. Yet the respect afforded him in negotiations was not extended to him in pre-fight predictions, which largely said that the only way Cotto could beat Martinez was if this older Martinez was no longer the Martinez of old.

The talk was less about the ability of whom Martinez was standing in with and more about the agility of what he was standing on. There was debate beforehand about whether his surgically reconstructed knee would be in a sleeve or a brace. What Martinez should've been bracing for was Cotto's power and speed.

In terms of Hollywood car movies from the last decade, Cotto was "2 Fast 2 Furious," while Martinez was essentially "Gone in 60 Seconds."

That one minute was all it took for Cotto to stagger Martinez with a left hook. That one punch was all it took for the fight to change. Cotto went on to knock Martinez down a total of three times in the first round, hurt him repeatedly over the course of the fight, win every single point on the scorecards and force Martinez's corner to stop the bout before it entered the 10th round.

It's tempting to say that Martinez never truly recovered from the knee and hand injuries he suffered against Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. in 2012 and hurt again against Martin Murray in 2013. After all, this Martinez was a shadow of the mobile, agile boxer we had seen during his reign as the king of the 160-pound division.

In actuality, it was Cotto's left hooks that Martinez never truly recovered from, as Martinez admitted afterward. Knee injuries had nothing to do with Cotto being able to land that first hard counter over Martinez's jab.

Rather, this was a case of Cotto not looking at all like the fighter who'd seemed to be on the decline just a couple of years ago. And this was a case of Martinez looking very much like the fighter who, in hindsight, had been showing signs of vulnerability that had yet to be exploited in such a manner.

Martinez had won seven in a row since his disputed decision loss to Paul Williams in 2009. That streak began with a victory over Kelly Pavlik for the middleweight title, was followed by the one-punch knockout victory over Williams in their rematch and continued on. We did see Martinez get both marked up (by Sergei Dzinziruk and Darren Barker) and knocked down (by Pavlik, Matthew Macklin, Chavez and Murray).

Many of those opponents were bigger men than Martinez. Larger size and its commensurate power aren't the only way to hurt a fighter, though. Smaller boxers can find the effect of their power enhanced due to their advantages in speed. That has been true for Manny Pacquiao. And that was also the case for Cotto, who came in at 155 pounds for a 159-pound fight, whose conditioning work has shifted away from running in favor of preserving his legs, and whose new trainer, Freddie Roach, helped make Cotto look better than he has in a long time.

Beyond that, Martinez was 39 years old, hadn't fought in more than a year and had a style based less on fundamental boxing skills and more on evading punches with quick reflexes. He slowed down at the wrong time — and against the wrong opponent.

READY TO GRUMBLE

★

Carl Froch is making Andre Ward look better and better with each passing fight. It's a shame that Ward is making himself look worse and worse with each month that passes without him fighting.

Froch did not look good in an ugly fight with Ward back in late 2011, a bout that Ward won with an injured hand to take the championship of Showtime's "Super Six" super middleweight tournament. Since then, however, Froch has destroyed Lucian Bute (before Ward could face Bute), won a keep-busy bout over Yusaf Mack, won an entertaining second fight with Mikkel Kessler, and twice stopped George Groves.

Last year's fight with Groves started shakily for Froch, who got dropped in the opening round, and it ended controversially when the referee halted the bout too quickly. This year's rematch brought no such drama and no reason for debate. Froch knocked Groves flat with one of the best right hands of 2014. The rematch took place in front of a massive crowd of 80,000 people.

Froch's run in the past 5½ years is impressive, dating all the way back to his December 2008 win over the 168-pound version of Jean Pascal. He has lost twice and had tough moments in a few of his wins, yet he's a firm No. 2 at super middleweight and the division's No. 1 star.

Andre Ward (right) beat Carl Froch, but Froch is doing much more with his career.

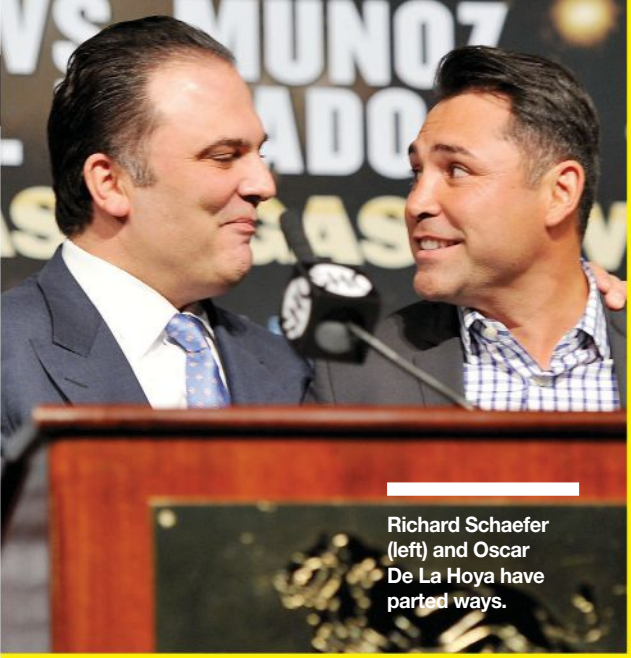
NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

That's more than we can say for Ward, meanwhile, has suffered injuries and has also done harm to his own career.

He's had more court battles with his promoter, Dan Goossen, than he has had actual fights. Goossen has triumphed each time, yet Ward's attempts to extricate himself from their relationship continue. Goossen says he's still interested in putting on Ward's fights. Ward says he's asked to fight again. But Goossen says he wants the legal disputes behind them, and yet Ward keeps moving ahead with them.

That's a bad formula for a great boxer who may soon be more known on HBO for commentary, not combat. Unless something changes soon in Ward's career for the better, it will not matter much that he's undefeated. That's because he's still coming out on the losing end of decisions — his own. RING

By **Brian Harty**



Richard Schaefer (left) and Oscar De La Hoya have parted ways.

SEA CHANGE

It wasn't a shock, because speculation was flying long before it happened, but it would be wrong to say it wasn't shock*ing* when **Richard Schaefer** handed in his resignation as CEO of Golden Boy Promotions in June.

Schaefer started out as a Swiss banker. He helped **Oscar De La Hoya**, whose own career as a prizefighter was winding down, make investments that helped transform the Golden Boy's money into bona fied wealth. When De La Hoya founded his eponymous company in 2002, he put Schaefer's hand on the wheel in hopes of a similar result, and it paid off. During Schaefer's tenure, Golden Boy amassed perhaps the most formidable stable in the business – one that included (at least in name) **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** – forged a relationship with Showtime that ultimately lured Mayweather from HBO, and subsequently oversaw the most profitable event in boxing history (Mayweather vs. Canelo Alvarez). It was a heck of a run. But tensions, the full nature of which were not entirely clear at press time (though many rolled their eyes toward perennial bogeyman **Bob Arum**), ultimately led to fracture, and Schaefer announced he had "no choice but to leave."

The boxing continents continued to shift afterward. Mayweather also bolted. The contractual status of many Golden Boy fighters became unclear. Rumors of a new Schaefer-Mayweather alliance buzzed. **Al Haymon** became even scarier. Where will it go? To be continued.

Things were definitely good for Mayweather, though. He was again named the highest-paid athlete in the world by *Forbes*, a repeat of 2012. With the revenue from his fights against **Canelo Alvarez** and **Marcos Maidana**, Money's take-home pay for the year (which on planet Forbes runs from June to June) was estimated at $105 million.

Clearly Mayweather does not intend to give up the title, either. His gaze no doubt rotated by the gravitational pull of pounds spent by the 80,000 who showed up at **Wembley Stadium** to watch **Carl Froch-George Groves**, Floyd offered his own résumé for a one-night job at the venue. **Amir Khan** liked that idea and put himself forward as "the only guy to fight him."

But don't think boxing is all money and violence. At its core it's really about romance. After dropping Groves in a concussed heap, Froch dropped to a knee and proposed to his girlfriend, **Rachael Cordingly** (it wasn't an "official" proposal, though, and they already have two children together). Not really about romance, but Froch was also named as a new contestant on the reality show *Tumble*, in which he will compete against other British celebrities in a range of gymnastics skills.

Wladimir Klitschko's fiancée, **Hayden Panetierre**, is reportedly pregnant with their first (and hopefully, for her sake, reasonably dimensioned) child.

Roy Jones Jr. also professed his love in the most modern of ways: By sending naked selfies to his mistress, former IBF featherweight titleholder **Stacey Louise Reile.** "StayLo" reportedly got upset that Jones wouldn't leave his wife for her and posted the pics on Instagram.

Showing better judgment, Jones announced that the Roy Jones Jr. Fight Academy would open this July in Las Vegas. The 15,000-square-foot establishment will offer boxing and MMA instruction, fitness training and classes in self-photography.

Former heavyweight titleholder **David Haye** was also set to try his hand at mass tutorship on June 21 in Macau by attempting to break the Guinness world record for largest boxing class. At press time the mark stood at 498 students, set by **Guy Leech** last March in Australia.

Political crossovers **Vitali Klitschko** and **Manny Pacquiao** took on some new challenges in June as well. Klitschko was sworn in as mayor of Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, which remains in a highly volatile tug-of-war between Europe and Russia. Pacquiao became the coach of a professional basketball team in the Philippines. Maybe not the best comparison.

Lastly, **Adrien Broner** has been responsible for frequent ludicrous behavior over the past few years. Maybe he was trying to help his image, maybe he was genuinely feeling charitable – regardless, Broner pulled up beside a panhandler on the street and gave the dude $1,000, and the result was widely reported as "heartwarming." How do we know this? Broner also recorded the encounter and posted the video. A few days later the young homeless man resurfaced with a black eye claiming he'd been beaten up and robbed as a result of the publicity.

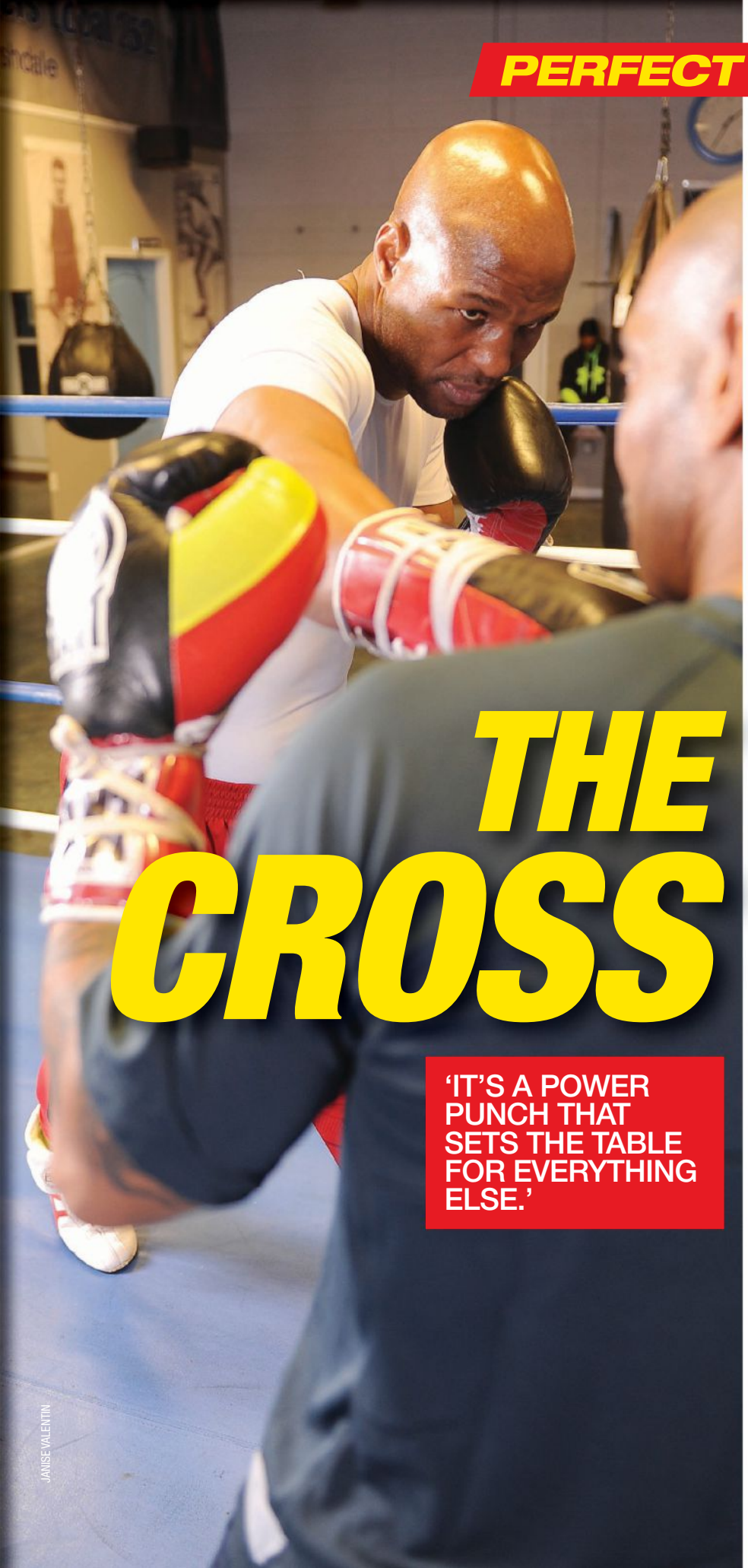
Corona Extra

BOXING

ACHIEVING GREATNESS *takes* SOMETHING EXTRA.

PROUD SPONSOR OF GOLDEN BOY

Imported by Crown Imports LLC. Chicago, IL 60603. Relax responsibly.



JANISE VALENTIN

PERFECT EXECUTION

Boxing Lessons From **Bernard Hopkins**

THE CROSS

'IT'S A POWER PUNCH THAT SETS THE TABLE FOR EVERYTHING ELSE.'

Good boxing demands good technique. A missed step here, an off-balance shot there, and you could be looking up from the canvas. The sport is as much about foot positioning as it is punching power. It's a ballet of fists and feet, of the whole body functioning as one. To achieve that, one must master the fundamentals.

Perhaps no one today has a better understanding of the basics than future Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins, which is why we asked him to play the leading role in a resurrected version of "Perfect Execution."

Each month in THE RING Magazine, Hopkins will demonstrate a particular skill and explain how to execute it. Photographs of Hopkins and assistant Danny Davis will help you understand the moves.

Also, for the first time, we will have an accompanying video on our website, RingTV.com, which will allow you to watch and listen as Hopkins imparts his wisdom.

This month: The cross. "The left cross is important because it sets up the next punch," Hopkins said. "And it's the same with the right cross. It's a power punch that sets the table for everything else. It's a punch that your opponent has to respect your power off of." »

PERFECT EXECUTION

Boxing Lessons From **Bernard Hopkins**

1 THE CROSS

2 COMBO OFF THE CROSS

3 LEFT HOOK CROSS

LESSON 1

The straight right-hand cross comes over the jab. A lazy jab, a fast jab, a timing jab, basically I'm throwing the cross over Danny's jab. It's kind of like an overhand right. But like any punch, you generate the power behind the cross off of footwork and how you're positioned ❶. Notice Danny has brought his jab down low, and I make him pay with a cross to the jaw ❷.

LESSON 2

This is a three-punch combination off of the cross. I have to twist my torso to generate power for the cross. I have to use an angle to connect with the cross ❶, and then I hit Danny with a left jab ❷. You can use the cross to position your opponent, and here, I come back with a right jab ❸. It comes from an angle.

LESSON 3

I throw the left hook here off a cross, where my body is on an angle. That's the cross part of the punch.

JANISE VALENTIN

IT'S BACK **Bernard Hopkins' popular how-to series on boxing fundamentals has returned and will appear each month in THE RING. We've added a video component to the feature. To watch and listen to Hopkins giving instruction, just scan the QR code or go to http://bit.ly/perfectexecution_cross.**

4 WHAT NOT TO DO

LESSON 4

This is the wrong way. I bring back the cross to where my hand is not in a position to throw another cross, nor can I defend myself. I'm left out of position to throw the cross. Danny gets to me before I can throw it.

JANISE VALENTIN

BlackBerry Torch

4Go-getters

4Great fights

The first-ever 4G BlackBerry® Torch.™
Only from AT&T.

Rethink Possible®

FREE SHIPPING | 1.866.MOBILITY – ATT.COM/TORCH

4G speeds delivered by HSPA+ with enhanced backhaul. Available in limited areas. Availability increasing with ongoing backhaul deployment. Requires 4G device. Learn more at att.com/network.

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, and related trademarks, names, and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Screen images simulated. ©2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

Carl Froch landed one of the biggest right hands in recent years on the chin of George Groves.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

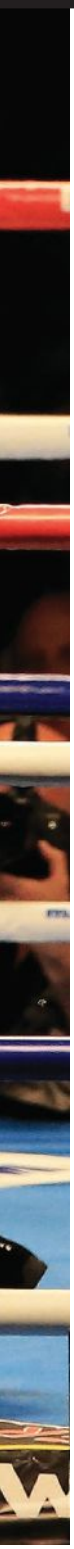
CARL FROCH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

The stage was set for Carl Froch to record his most important victory or suffer his most devastating setback on May 31 at a packed Wembley Stadium in London.

The Froch-George Groves rematch, which followed a controversial first meeting between the British rivals, evolved into the biggest boxing event in the U.K. since World War II, drawing a staggering 80,000 fans to the stadium as millions more watched on TV worldwide.

MATTHEW LEWIS/GETTY IMAGES



In other words, all eyes were on the fighters. Win and you're a hero; lose and you're a goat.

Of course, Froch being Froch, he ended up being the former. And he couldn't have done it in more dramatic fashion, landing a right hand for the ages that found Groves' chin and rendered him unable to continue in the eighth round.

Froch had his hands full with his young, skilful opponent until the end. The scores after seven rounds – 67-66 and 67-66 for Froch, 68-65 for Groves – accurately reflected a fight that could've gone either way.

However, winners like Froch find ways to win. Just as he did when he won the first meeting by a ninth-round KO, he seized the momentum as the fight progressed and ended matters on his terms.

The suddenness of the ending was startling; most one-punch knockouts take your breath away. No one who has followed the remarkable career of Froch was surprised that he beat Groves again, though. We expect Carl Froch to win.

Froch, 37, probably will fight on. He has said he wants to take part in a big fight in Las Vegas before he hangs up his gloves. At the same time, he has little more to accomplish.

In at least one sense, now would be a good time to walk away. Said Froch of his success on such a stage on May 31: "That, for me, will be hard to top." RING

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND FOR POUND: Carl Froch (No. 10 last month) emphatically ended the grumbling about his first encounter with George Groves with an eighth-round knockout in the rematch. "The Cobra" swapped spots with No. 9 Canelo Alvarez as a result. The following week, Sergio Martinez (No. 7 last month) was ousted after getting wrecked by Miguel Cotto (unrated in pound for pound) at Madison Square Garden. Guillermo Rigondeaux (No. 8 last month) and Froch closed the gap, undefeated three-division titlewinner Roman Gonzalez entered at No. 9 and Alvarez remained at No. 10.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: List gatekeeper Tony Thompson lost the keys with a unanimous-decision loss to Carlos Takam (unrated) and was replaced at No. 10 by unbeaten Cuban Mike Perez.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: James DeGale (No. 8 last month) rose a notch after scoring a fourth-round TKO over unrated Brandon Gonzales on the Froch-Groves undercard. Thomas Oosthuizen, who drew with Gonzalez two fights ago, was dropped from No. 6 to No. 8 while Sakio Bika (No. 7 last month) took the No. 6 spot.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Sam Soliman (unrated) remedied a February 2013 no-contest with Felix Sturm (No. 2 last month) by beating the IBF titleholder via unanimous decision in Germany. Soliman stormed the ratings at No. 4 while Sturm fell to No. 5, pushing everyone down a notch and No. 10 Billy Joe Saunders over the edge. In his first fight at 160, Cotto (No. 3 junior middleweight last month) assaulted division champion Martinez to capture the RING title when Martinez's corner ended the carnage before the 10th round. The beltless Martinez fell to No. 4, and another No. 10, this time Curtis Stevens, was pushed out of the ratings.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Those previously below Cotto, beginning with No. 4 Carlos Molina and ending with No. 10 Ishe Smith, rose to fill the vacuum, and Andy Lee, who scored a dramatic, do-or-die knockout of John Jackson on the Cotto-Martinez undercard, took the No. 10 space. Lee's stay was short-lived, however. He was replaced the following week by undefeated American Jermall Charlo, whose twin brother Jermell is ranked No. 8.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Boxer trumped brawler as unrated Chris Algieri upset Ruslan Provodnikov (No. 2 last month) with a split-decision victory in Brooklyn, New York. Lamont Peterson (No. 3 last month) was promoted to No. 2, and Algieri entered at No. 3, with Provodnikov below him at No. 4. Dierry Jean (No. 7 last month) went down to lightweight and was removed.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No. 2 Richar Abril has had dates fall through but hasn't fought for 16 months, so he was removed. Everyone previously below him, from No. 3 Terence Crawford to No. 10 Jorge Linares, moved up a notch, and Ugandan Sharif Bogere entered the ratings at No. 10.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Undefeated Dominican Javier Fortuna replaced Bryan Vasquez at No. 10 after a unanimous-decision win over Juan Antonio Rodriguez (unrated).

FEATHERWEIGHTS: A shuffle ensued after Nonito Donaire (No. 7 last month), Nicholas Walters (No. 5) and Evgeny Gradovich (No. 3) all scored wins in Macau, China. Walters rose to No. 3 after a fifth-round knockout of Vic Darchinyan, who subsequently lost his No. 5 ranking at 122 pounds. Donaire ascended to No. 4 after taking the WBA title with a headbutt-induced technical decision over Simpiwe Vetyeka, who fell from No. 4 to No. 6, and Gradovich slipped to No. 5 after a unanimous decision over unrated Alexander Miskirtchian.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: With Darchinyan's departure, everyone from No. 6 downward was elevated, and Californian Chris Avalos took the bottom spot after an eighth-round knockout of Yasutaka Ishimoto (unrated).

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Unrated and undefeated Puerto Rican McJoe Arroyo took out former flyweight titleholder Hernan Marquez with an 11th-round TKO and replaced Daiki Kameda at No. 9.

FLYWEIGHTS: The spot left vacant by Marquez (No. 10 last month), who is now fighting at 115 pounds, was filled by Filipino contender Milan Melindo.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No change.

Miguel Cotto (left) took the world middleweight championship from Sergio Martinez with ferocity and efficiency.

THE FIGURES UNDER THE FIGHTERS' NAMES INDICATE: WEEKS IN THE RATINGS • COUNTRY • RECORD

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
371 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)

1. KUBRAT PULEV
138 • Bulgaria • 20-0-0 (11 KOs)

2. ALEXANDER POVETKIN
345 • Russia • 27-1-0 (19 KOs)

3. BERMANE STIVERNE
59 • Canada • 24-1-1 (21 KOs)

4. TYSON FURY
120 • U.K. • 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

5. VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV
14 • Ukraine • 17-0-1 (11 KOs)

6. TOMASZ ADAMEK
216 • Poland • 49-3-0 (29 KOs)

7. CHRIS ARREOLA
40 • U.S. • 36-4-0 (31 KOs)

8. DEONTAY WILDER
30 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (31 KOs)

9. BRYANT JENNINGS
13 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)

10. MIKE PEREZ
2 • Cuba • 20-0-1 (12 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ
140 • Cuba • 28-1-0 (14 KOs)

1. MARCO HUCK
117 • Germany • 37-2-1 (26 KOs)

2. KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK
368 • Poland • 49-2-1 (35 KOs)

3. DENIS LEBEDEV
226 • Russia • 25-2-0 (19 KOs)

4. OLA AFOLABI
273 • U.K. • 20-3-4 (9 KOs)

5. GRIGORY DROZD
37 • Russia • 38-1-0 (27 KOs)

6. ILUNGA MAKABU
49 • Congo • 16-1-0 (15 KOs)

7. DMYTRO KUCHER
82 • Ukraine • 21-1-0 (15 KOs)

8. FIRAT ARSLAN
83 • Germany • 34-7-2 (21 KOs)

9. MATEUSZ MASTERNAK
126 • Poland • 32-1-0 (23 KOs)

10. THABISO MCHUNU
35 • S. Africa • 16-1-0 (11 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C ADONIS STEVENSON
54 • Canada • 24-1-0 (20 KOs)

1. BERNARD HOPKINS
415 • U.S. • 55-6-2 (32 KOs)

2. SERGEY KOVALEV
73 • Russia • 24-0-1 (22 KOs)

3. JEAN PASCAL
49 • Canada • 29-2-1 (17 KOs)

4. JUERGEN BRAEHMER
100 • Germany • 44-2-0 (32 KOs)

5. CHAD DAWSON
415 • U.S. • 31-3-0 (17 KOs)

6. BEIBUT SHUMENOV
27 • Kaz. • 14-2-0 (9 KOs)

7. TAVORIS CLOUD
247 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (19 KOs)

8. ISAAC CHILEMBA
107 • Malawi • 22-2-2 (9 KOs)

9. ELEIDER ALVAREZ
14 • Colombia • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)

10. ANDRZEJ FONFARA
5 • Poland • 25-3-0 (15 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C ANDRE WARD
266 • U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. CARL FROCH
417 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)

2. MIKKEL KESSLER
78 • Denmark • 46-3-0 (35 KOs)

3. ARTHUR ABRAHAM
242 • Armenia • 40-4-0 (28 KOs)

4. ROBERT STIEGLITZ
250 • Russia • 46-4-0 (26 KOs)

5. GEORGE GROVES
254 • U.K. • 19-2-0 (15 KOs)

6. SAKIO BIKA
374 • Cameroon • 32-5-3 (21 KOs)

7. JAMES DEGALE
54 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (13 KOs)

8. THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN
161 • S. Africa • 22-0-2 (13 KOs)

9. MAXIM VLASOV
18 • Russia • 29-1-0 (14 KOs)

10. J'LEON LOVE
7 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)

RICH SCHULTZ/GETTY IMAGES

RATINGS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C MIGUEL COTTO
2 • P.R. • 39-4-0 (32 KOs)

1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN
130 • Kaz. • 29-0-0 (26 KOs)

2. DANIEL GEALE
259 • Australia • 30-2-0 (16 KOs)

3. PETER QUILLIN
106 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (22 KOs)

4. SERGIO MARTINEZ
216 • Argentina • 51-3-2 (28 KOs)

5. SAM SOLIMAN
3 • Australia • 44-11-0 (18 KOs)

6. FELIX STURM
562 • Germany • 39-4-2 (18 KOs)

7. MATTHEW MACKLIN
245 • U.K. • 30-5-0 (20 KOs)

8. MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO
46 • Mexico • 59-6-1 (51 KOs)

9. MARTIN MURRAY
131 • U.K. • 27-1-1 (12 KOs)

10. HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM
22 • Cameroon • 30-1-0 (18 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
109 • U.S. • 46-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. CANELO ALVAREZ
185 • Mexico • 43-1-1 (31 KOs)

2. ERISLANDY LARA
152 • Cuba • 19-1-2 (12 KOs)

3. CARLOS MOLINA
152 • Mexico • 22-5-2 (6 KOs)

4. AUSTIN TROUT
106 • U.S. • 26-2-0 (14 KOs)

5. DEMETRIUS ANDRADE
61 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

6. VANES MARTIROSYAN
234 • U.S. • 34-1-1 (21 KOs)

7. WILLIE NELSON
60 • U.S. • 22-1-1 (13 KOs)

8. JERMELL CHARLO
32 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (11 KOs)

9. ISHE SMITH
33 • U.S. • 26-6-0 (12 KOs)

10. JERMALL CHARLO
1 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (14 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
142 • U.S. • 46-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. MANNY PACQUIAO
238 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)

2. TIMOTHY BRADLEY
106 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)

3. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
78 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)

4. SHAWN PORTER
28 • U.S. • 24-0-1 (15 KOs)

5. KELL BROOK
162 • U.K. • 32-0-0 (22 KOs)

6. MARCOS MAIDANA
27 • Argentina • 35-4-0 (31 KOs)

7. KEITH THURMAN
67 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (21 KOs)

8. ROBERT GUERRERO
98 • U.S. • 31-2-1 (18 KOs)

9. AMIR KHAN
7 • U.K. • 29-3-0 (19 KOs)

10. PAULIE MALIGNAGGI
110 • U.S. • 33-6-0 (7 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C DANNY GARCIA
164 • U.S. • 28-0-0 (16 KOs)

1. LUCAS MATTHYSSE
164 • Argentina • 35-3-0 (33 KOs)

2. LAMONT PETERSON
68 • U.S. • 32-2-1 (16 KOs)

3. CHRIS ALGIERI
1 • U.S. • 20-0-0 (8 KOs)

4. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
79 • Russia • 23-2-0 (16 KOs)

5. MIKE ALVARADO
143 • U.S. • 34-3-0 (23 KOs)

6. ZAB JUDAH
170 • U.S. • 42-9-0 (29 KOs)

7. ADRIEN BRONER
7 • U.S. • 28-1-0 (22 KOs)

8. JESSIE VARGAS
10 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (9 KOs)

9. VIKTOR POSTOL
43 • Ukraine • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

10. KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV
102 • Russia • 19-1-0 (9 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
198 • Mexico • 34-3-0 (13 KOs)

2. TERENCE CRAWFORD
49 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (16 KOs)

3. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN
97 • Mexico • 29-6-1 (17 KOs)

4. RICKY BURNS
129 • U.K. • 36-3-1 (11 KOs)

5. KEVIN MITCHELL
150 • U.K. • 38-2-0 (28 KOs)

6. DANIEL ESTRADA
76 • Mexico • 32-2-1 (24 KOs)

7. OMAR FIGUEROA
23 • U.S. • 23-0-1 (17 KOs)

8. JUAN DIAZ
20 • U.S. • 39-4-0 (19 KOs)

9. JORGE LINARES
15 • Venezuela • 36-3-0 (23 KOs)

10. SHARIF BOGERE
3 • Uganda • 24-1-0 (16 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
239 • Japan • 21-0-1 (17 KOs)

2. MIKEY GARCIA
32 • U.S. • 34-0-0 (28 KOs)

3. RANCES BARTHELEMY
24 • Cuba • 19-0-0 (12 KOs)

4. TAKASHI MIURA
62 • Japan • 27-2-2 (20 KOs)

5. JUAN CARLOS BURGOS
134 • Mexico • 30-2-2 (20 KOs)

6. ROMAN MARTINEZ
299 • P.R. • 27-2-2 (16 KOs)

7. ARGENIS MENDEZ
212 • Dom. Rep. • 21-2-1 (11 KOs)

8. DIEGO MAGDALENO
156 • U.S. • 25-1-0 (10 KOs)

9. SERGIO THOMPSON
15 • Mexico • 29-3-0 (26 KOs)

10. JAVIER FORTUNA
3 • Dom. Rep. • 25-0-1 (18 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. JHONNY GONZALEZ
165 • Mexico • 56-8-0 (47 KOs)

2. ABNER MARES
58 • Mexico • 26-1-1 (14 KOs)

3. NICHOLAS WALTERS
72 • Jamaica • 24-0-0 (20 KOs)

4. NONITO DONAIRE
25 • Phil. • 33-2-0 (21 KOs)

5. EVGENY GRADOVICH
67 • Russia • 19-0-0 (9 KOs)

6. SIMPIWE VETYEKA
28 • S. Africa • 26-3-0 (16 KOs)

7. BILLY DIB
149 • Australia • 36-3-0 (21 KOs)

8. RONNY RIOS
16 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (10 KOs)

9. LEE SELBY
14 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (7 KOs)

10. VASYL LOMACHENKO
7 • Ukraine • 1-1-0 (1 KO)*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
187 • Cuba • 13-0-0 (8 KOs)

1. CARL FRAMPTON
90 • U.K. • 18-0-0 (13 KOs)

2. LEO SANTA CRUZ
58 • U.S. • 27-0-1 (15 KOs)

3. KIKO MARTINEZ
43 • Spain • 31-4-0 (23 KOs)

4. SCOTT QUIGG
80 • U.K. • 28-0-2 (21 KOs)

5. VICTOR TERRAZAS
60 • Mexico • 37-3-1 (21 KOs)

6. CRISTIAN MIJARES
45 • Mexico • 49-8-2 (24 KOs)

7. JEFFREY MATHEBULA
115 • S. Africa • 27-5-2 (14 KOs)

8. JHONATAN ROMERO
59 • Colombia • 23-1-0 (12 KOs)

9. GENESIS SERVANIA
14 • Phil. • 24-0-0 (10 KOs)

10. CHRIS AVALOS
3 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (18 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

**** The record shown for Vasyl Lomachenko is the one listed by boxrec.com. However, Lomachenko was paid to participate in the World Series of Boxing six times during 2013, with a record of 6-0.***

RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
322 • Panama • 35-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
135 • Japan • 21-0-2 (16 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
180 • Japan • 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
175 • Phil. • 34-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
111 • Mexico • 34-2-0 (30 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
64 • Ghana • 29-5-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
58 • U.K. • 24-2-1 (11 KOs)
8. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
45 • Japan • 29-0-0 (18 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
90 • Mexico • 27-1-0 (25 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
12 • Japan • 17-1-0 (10 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
212 • Argentina • 42-1-2 (23 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
109 • Mexico • 30-0-0 (24 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
58 • Thailand • 27-4-1 (25 KOs)
4. **ZOLANI TETE**
29 • S. Africa • 18-3-0 (16 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
121 • Mexico • 17-2-1 (9 KOs)
6. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
60 • Phil. • 25-0-0 (14 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
88 • Thailand • 53-1-1 (19 KOs)
8. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
56 • Mexico • 29-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **MCJOE ARROYO**
1 • P.R. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)
10. **KOHEI KONO**
7 • Japan • 30-8-0 (13 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C AKIRA YAEGASHI
62 • Japan • 20-3-0 (10 KOs)

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
32 • Nicaragua • 39-0-0 (33 KOs)
2. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
62 • Mexico • 26-2-0 (19 KOs)
3. **BRIAN VILORIA**
151 • U.S. • 33-4-0 (19 KOs)
4. **EDGAR SOSA**
109 • Mexico • 50-8-0 (30 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
137 • Argentina • 34-1-0 (18 KOs)
6. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
14 • S. Africa • 30-2-0 (20 KOs)
7. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
6 • Thailand • 13-0-0 (5 KOs)
8. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
135 • Japan • 18-2-1 (11 KOs)
9. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
33 • Mexico • 32-3-1 (28 KOs)
10. **MILAN MELINDO**
1 • Phil. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C DONNIE NIETES
139 • Phil. • 33-1-4 (19 KOs)

1. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
121 • Phil. • 20-2-0 (12 KOs)
2. **KAZUTO IOKA**
76 • Japan • 14-1-0 (9 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
67 • Mexico • 19-2-1 (10 KOs)
4. **NAOYA INOUE**
42 • Japan • 6-0-0 (5 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
162 • Mexico • 29-3-1 (18 KOs)
6. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
63 • Mexico • 22-1-1 (14 KOs)
7. **FELIX ALVARADO**
65 • Nicaragua • 18-2-0 (15 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
59 • Peru • 32-8-0 (13 KOs)
9. **TAKUMA INOUE**
11 • Japan • 2-0-0 (0 KOs)
10. **RANDY PETALCORIN**
6 • Phil. • 21-1-1 (16 KOs)

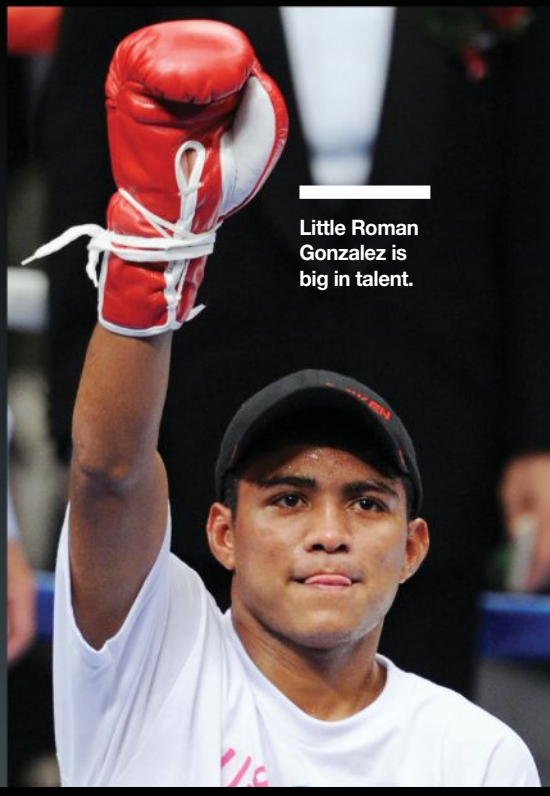
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
90 • S. Africa • 25-1-0 (8 KOs)
2. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
155 • Thailand • 34-0-0 (11 KOs)
3. **DENVER CUELLO**
528 • Phil. • 33-5-6 (21 KOs)
4. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
63 • Japan • 27-6-0 (10 KOs)
5. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
86 • Nicaragua • 27-0-1 (16 KOs)
6. **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ**
13 • Mexico • 14-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **OSVALDO NOVOA**
19 • Mexico • 13-4-1 (8 KOs)
8. **MERLITO SABILLO**
48 • Phil. • 23-1-1 (12 KOs)
9. **RYUJI HARA**
41 • Japan • 17-0-0 (10 KOs)
10. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
47 • Mexico • 28-5-0 (20 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
139 • U.S. • 46-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **ANDRE WARD**
161 • U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
3. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
195 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)
4. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
546 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)
5. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
92 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
371 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)
7. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
42 • Cuba • 13-0-0 (8 KOs)
8. **CARL FROCH**
27 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
2 • Nicaragua • 39-0-0 (33 KOs)
10. **CANELO ALVAREZ**
55 • Mexico • 43-1-1 (31 KOs)



Little Roman Gonzalez is big in talent.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

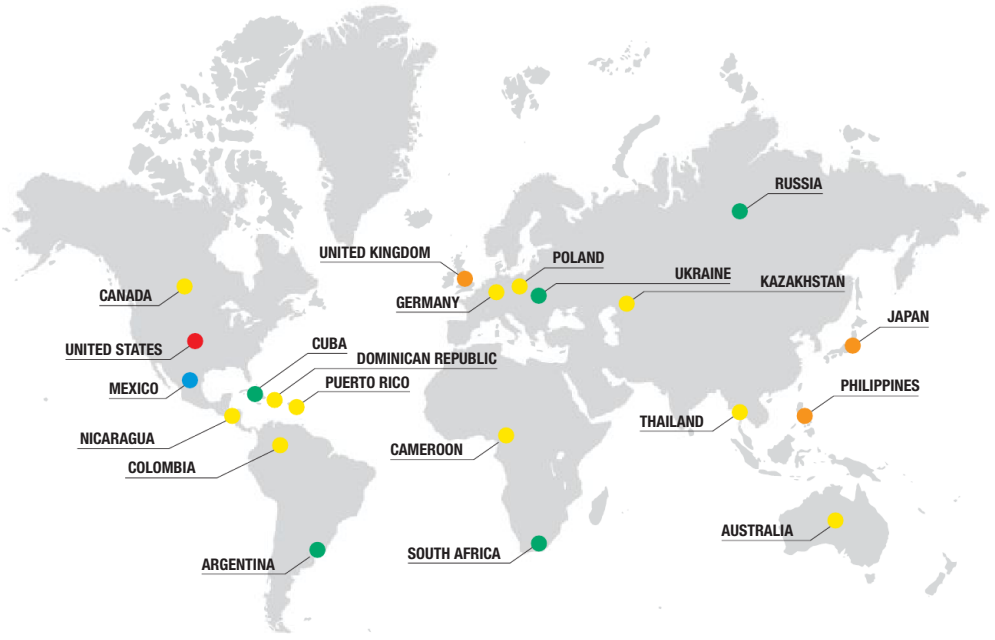
A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	39*	↑ 1
MEXICO	27	↓ 1
UNITED KINGDOM	15	↓ 1
JAPAN	14	↓ 1
PHILIPPINES	11	↑ 1
RUSSIA	9	
SOUTH AFRICA	7	
ARGENTINA	5	
CUBA	5	
UKRAINE	5	
GERMANY	4	
POLAND	4	
THAILAND	4	
AUSTRALIA	3	↑ 1
CANADA	3	↓ 1
NICARAGUA	3	
PUERTO RICO	3	↑ 1
CAMEROON	2	
COLOMBIA	2	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	↑ 1
KAZAKHSTAN	2	
ARMENIA	1	↓ 1
BULGARIA	1	
CONGO	1	
DENMARK	1	
GHANA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
MALAWI	1	
PANAMA	1	
PERU	1	
SPAIN	1	
UGANDA	1	↑ 1
VENEZUELA	1	

Out (from last month): *Costa Rica (Bryan Vasquez)*
In (this month): *Uganda (Sharif Bogere)*

**** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).***



AFRICA VS. SOUTH AMERICA

North America, Europe and Asia dominate boxing. However, the continents of Africa and South America are well represented in THE RING Ratings, with a combined 22 fighters. Here's a look at how Africa and South America compare to one another.

DIVISION	AFRICA	S. AMERICA
HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	2	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	1
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0
WELTERWEIGHTS	0	1
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	0	1
LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	1
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	1
FLYWEIGHTS	1	1
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	1
STRAWWEIGHTS	1	0
TOTAL	13	9

Note: See Pages 32-34 to see which Africans and South Americans are rated

MOST EXPERIENCE

The 17 divisions vary greatly in terms of experience, meaning the number of fights in the careers of rated boxers. The most experienced division is middleweight, which averages 41.1 fights per rated boxer. Five of the 11 160-pounders have 40-plus fights. The least experienced division is junior flyweight, which averages 22.3. Here's the list (by average number of fights):

41.1 – MIDDLEWEIGHT (452 TOTAL FIGHTS)
39.0 – WELTERWEIGHT (429)
34.2 – LIGHTWEIGHT (342)
32.5 – SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT (358)
32.2 – FLYWEIGHT (354)
31.5 – CRUISERWEIGHT (346)
31.2 – JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT (312)
31.0 – HEAVYWEIGHT (341)
30.6 – BANTAMWEIGHT (306)
30.5 – LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (336)
30.3 – JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (333)
30.2 – JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT (332)
29.5 – JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT (325)
28.3 – FEATHERWEIGHT (283)
27.9 – JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT (279)
27.4 – STRAWWEIGHT (274)
22.3 – JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT (245)

Note: 11 of the 17 divisions have a champion. Thus, those divisions have 11 rated fighters.

KLITSCHKO: DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES; MARQUEZ: JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

FOCUS ON . . .

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 122-pounders.

Guillermo Rigondeaux has made an enormous impact in relatively few fights as a junior featherweight.

MOST WEEKS RATED: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX **187**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: CHRIS AVALOS **3**

OLDEST: JEFFREY MATHEBULA **35**

YOUNGEST: GENESIS SERVANIA **22**

MOST FIGHTS: CRISTIAN MIJARES **59**

FEWEST FIGHTS: RIGONDEAUX **13**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: (TIE) CARL FRAMPTON, RIGONDEAUX, SERVANIA **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: MATHEBULA **79.4 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: MIJARES **24**

FEWEST KOS: RIGONDEAUX **8**

LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK: SERVANIA **24 FIGHTS**

ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: RIGONDEAUX **(NO. 7)**

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: RIGONDEAUX **(RING, WBO AND WBA)**, LEO SANTA CRUZ **(WBC)** AND KIKO MARTINEZ **(IBF)**

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): KID GALAHAD, ANDRES GUTIERREZ, YOANDRIS SALINAS, REY VARGAS, SHINGO WAKE

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.

Gennady Golovkin

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD RINGTV.COM STAFF WRITER

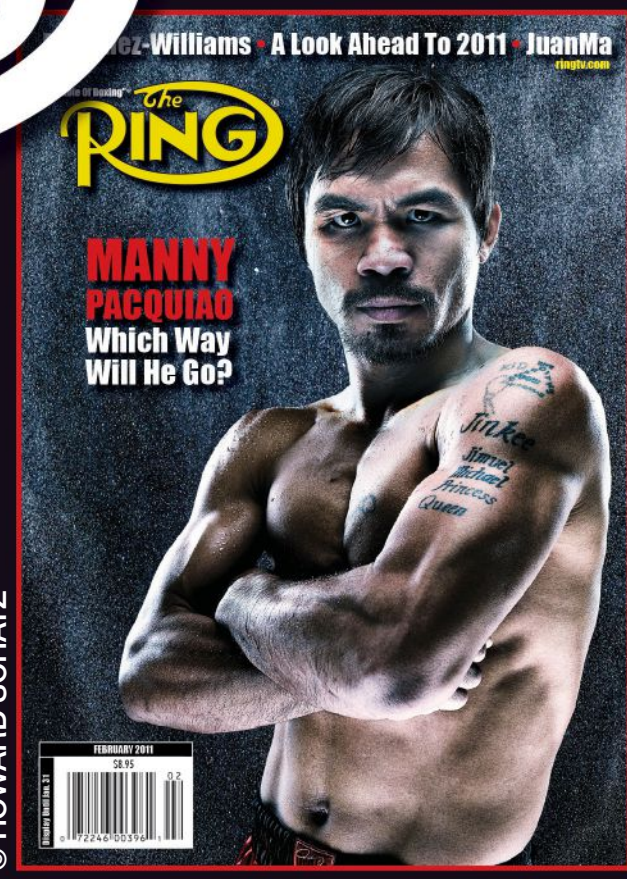
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

RIGONDEAUX: AFP; KLITSCHKO: MARTIN ROSE

The Bible of Boxing® since 1922!

The RING®



© HOWARD SCHATZ

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE AS MUCH AS 70%

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

Save Over 35% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ Six Issues of The Ring for $33.70* 610300

Save Over 50% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ One Year of The Ring for $53.70* 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $29.95 value)!

SUPER SAVER—Over 60% Off Newsstand!

☐ Two Years of The Ring for $78.70* 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $59.90 value)!

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION—Over 70% Off Newsstand!

☐ One Year of The Ring Digital Edition for $29.95

MAIL TO: Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC
P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122

TELEPHONE: 1-800-846-6438

E-MAIL: thering@emailcustomerservice.com

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___ (MO/YR) __ __ __ (3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE)

Signature:_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____
(necessary for digital subscription)

TELEPHONE_____

*For Canada and Mexico: $52.50 for 6 issues; $86.70 for one year; $127.10 for two years. All other countries: $81 for 6 issues; $143.70 for one year; $210.60 for two years. International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Airmail shipping only outside the U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires December 31, 2014

FINISHED

Carl Froch made sure there was no controversy this time.

BUSINESS

CARL FROCH'S ONE-PUNCH KO OF GEORGE GROVES PROVIDED A DRAMATIC END TO AN HISTORIC EVENT, ONE THAT FROCH ACKNOWLEDGED WILL BE HARD TO TOP

By **Elliot Worsell**

The third man in the ring had never seen or heard anything like it. Eighteen months since he last officiated a world-title fight, Charlie Fitch, a 43-year-old referee from Syracuse, New York, found himself inside London's Wembley Stadium to oversee a decisive finish to an all-British grudge match that would soon play out before 80,000 fans. He took a deep breath. He was

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

aware of the history.

Back in November, Carl Froch and George Groves combined to produce one of the most savage, dramatic and controversial fights ever to take place on British soil, a fight concluded by a ninth-round stoppage in Froch's favor. The Nottingham slugger retained his IBF super middleweight title that night, but not everyone went home happy. The booing fans certainly didn't and neither did Groves, the plucky challenger on the receiving end of what he and everybody else deemed to be a hasty and ill-timed stoppage.

The flustered referee, England's Howard Foster, fled the ring beneath a security blanket, ears ringing from the vitriol of 20,000 fans, and the contentious nature of his stoppage threatened to overshadow all that came before it. That included Groves decking Froch in the first round and outboxing him for the first half of the contest, and then, crucially, the heroic champion rallying back through the fog. Regrettably, it became all about the moment Foster crossed his arms and cradled a wounded but willing "Saint" in his arms.

Months later, however, with the controversy acting as the impetus for Froch and Groves to pick up where they left off and fight again, the ostracised referee from Doncaster had inadvertently set the wheels spinning on a blockbuster rematch at Wembley Stadium, one that would break the post-World War II attendance record for a British boxing match. Sixty thousand tickets flew out the door in just 51 minutes, with the promise of a further 20,000 to follow. They too would vanish in a flash. The return had become more than just a boxing match. It was now an event. According to its promoter, Eddie Hearn, "Unfinished Business" marked "the biggest event in British boxing history."

Because of all this, Fitch took another deep breath to compose himself. It was impossible to escape the controversy that shrouded the first encounter six months ago, and this time there was no margin for error. The public needed to be satisfied, their thirst for an emphatic, violent ending quenched. Fitch was aware of this. He was also aware of accusations from the Groves camp that much of Froch's success the first time around had been due to fouling and rough-house tactics on the inside. It was another thing he was expected to stop. Another thing on his mind.

At 8:50 p.m., Fitch, carrying two blue Grant boxing gloves in his hand, as well as a carrier bag, stood inside the challenger's dressing room and was introduced to both Groves and his trainer, Paddy Fitzpatrick, by an inspector from the British Boxing Board of Control. The music playing at the time, The Stone Roses' "I Wanna Be Adored," was turned down to allow the diminutive, balding New Yorker the chance to deliver his instructions clearly. He paused for a moment.

"We're going to go over the rules for tonight's fight," he said, with Groves to his right, wearing boxer shorts and a turquoise T-shirt, and Fitzpatrick to his left. "You're both championship fighters in a championship fight. There's no 'saved by the bell' in any round … the three knockdown rule is not in effect, meaning if a fighter goes down three times in the same round, it will be at my discretion whether I stop the fight or allow it to continue … if a fighter gets hurt, but I can see he's able to continue, I'll let it go.

"Be careful with head butts, I'll look for any on the inside, and I don't want to see any punches behind the head. The protector should be low enough so that I can see the navel. Punches above the belt line are OK. Anything below that belt line will be ruled a low blow. Can I see the protector?"

On cue, Fitzpatrick fetched his fighter's black protector from a nearby table and handed it to the referee.

"That's a great one," Fitch said, almost admiring the quality of the leather. "It can even be slightly under the navel. That's OK.

"If you score a knockdown, go to the furthest neutral corner. If you guys get tied in a clinch, I want to see you work out of it. You can either punch your way out of the clinch or move out of the clinch. If I see the fighters unable to work out of it, I'll give the command 'break!' Once I've said 'break,' you stop punching and break. I want a clean

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

George Groves (left) boxed well against Froch ... for a while.

fight. You both know how to fight, a clean fight and all these fans are here to see a good, clean fight."

"May I ask a question?" said Fitzpatrick.

"Yes."

"How will you react to punches to the back of the head?"

Fitch knew it was coming, so his counter was already cocked. "It will depend on the situation," he said. "The fighter will either get a soft warning or a harder one. I may call 'time,' go to the fighter and say, 'Hey, no hitting behind the head' without taking a point, or I might go straight into calling 'time,' bring them to the center of the ring and take a point. I'll make the right call at the right time, depending on the situation."

"Any questions?" asked the onlooking inspector.

"No, just the one I asked, thanks," said Fitzpatrick.

Fitch shook Groves' hand. "Good luck, man," he said.

Once he'd relayed his instructions to both challenger and champion, Fitch took his place in the center of the 18-foot ring, surrounded by 80,000 screaming Englishman, and waited for the two boxers to join him. Groves was first. And befitting the grandiosity of the event, he boarded a big, red bus to the strains of Kasabian's "Underdog" before prowling and posing on an elevated platform, one illuminated by fire, then finally made his march to the ring backed by Prodigy's "Spitfire." There was an equal amount of boos and cheers. Froch received the same. It appeared nobody in the stadium knew who they wanted to win, just so long as someone did. Convincingly, this time.

Froch's entrance was comparatively low-key and included no buses or fire balls. He walked out to Queen's "We Will Rock You," a sing-along ideal in getting bloodthirsty fans to stop booing and start chanting, and then arrived on the platform to the tune of AC/DC's "Shoot to Thrill." A light show ensued and lasers shot flashes of green, blue, yellow and red around him as he shadowboxed. Old school to his core, he seemed to resent every second of it.

The third man in the ring offered his instructions to both as the boos simmered and the canvas cleared for the start of the fight. In the first round, Fitch warned Froch for holding and hitting the back of Groves' head. He told both off for wrestling and not listening to him in the second and signalled an accidental head-butt in the sixth. Aside from those flashpoints, though, it was plain sailing for Charlie Fitch. And in the eighth round, when a titanic Froch right hand dropped Groves heavily by the ring ropes, no count was necessary. Fitch was a helpless bystander, his prior instructions irrelevant. The fight was over and the rivalry, which had for so long been open-ended and open to interpretation, finally received the full stop, nay, exclamation mark so many craved.

Froch, both judge and jury, walked away relatively

unblemished. He'd thrown the odd counter-right cross and left hook, and a measured selection of jabs to head and body, but for a man so accustomed to earning success the hard way there was little in the way of facial distortion or moments of peril. Certainly nothing like what he experienced in the first fight. Gone also were the boos and catcalls that haunted his trip from the ring to the changing room in November. Now, through a storm of ticker-tape falling from the sky, he heard only cheers and widespread acclaim. "The best shot I've ever thrown in my life," was how he coined the final right hand, and most agreed.

Not everyone, though. To the right of press row were two women in expensive gowns scrutinizing the debris, careful not to let the tumbling confetti ruin their attire, and as they watched a crestfallen Groves suck in oxygen on his stool, one asked the other, "Did you enjoy it?"

Her friend replied, "Yes, it was OK, I suppose. I would have liked to see some more hits, though. He got hit once, and then that was it."

"Yes. I'd have like to see him take a few more big hits before going down as well. It happened very fast. Too fast."

Suffice to say, it wasn't necessarily a boxing crowd in Wembley Stadium that night. No, this was an emotionless event-crowd, hardly any different from what might show up to a Coldplay gig in the very same venue; they merely wanted to witness the brutality of the fight game from a safe distance.

Froch has boxed in many sold-out venues all around the world, but never had he performed before an audience quite like this. "We've had unbelievable support from the British public," he said in the aftermath. "Not just for me, but for the whole event. It was a domestic grudge match, everybody got behind it and it captured the public's imagination. They didn't just come out to see me, they came out to see George Groves and me fight for two world titles (including the WBA's "regular" belt, which THE RING doesn't recognize) in a great British affair, a massive dust-up. There was a bit of needle and a bit of animosity. We had all the ingredients.

"This is the best night of my career, and I've been involved in some unbelievable fights. Eighty thousand at the national stadium is going to be very difficult to beat. I don't know how it can be beaten."

If you'd told Froch 12 months earlier that his magnificent fighting legacy would ultimately be defined by a win over Groves, then an unproven whippersnapper, he'd have waited for the punchline. But that's exactly what has happened since the two Britons became so inextricably linked toward the back-end of 2013; "Froch-Groves," as a single phrase, has become as much a part of British boxing vernacular as "one-two" or "Benn-Eubank." And while the 26-year-old Londoner remains too green and potential-heavy to be considered Froch's best win – that accolade would arguably go to Mikkel Kessler, Lucian Bute, Jean Pascal or Arthur Abraham – he certainly represents the most important foe of the champion's 12-year professional career. After all, Groves turned out to be the opponent Froch may well have been for Joe Calzaghe back in 2007, when the Nottingham man, a WBC No. 1 contender at the time, called so desperately for the fight. It never happened, though, and Calzaghe retired without ever becoming embroiled in the kind of special rivalry Froch and Groves have now shared.

Truth be told, from out of nowhere Groves wound up being the nemesis a great fighter sometimes needs to elevate his legacy into the consciousness of the wider public. Strange, perhaps, that a stunning last-gasp win over

Groves (right) was appropriately disgusted after the fact.

Jermain Taylor didn't do the trick for Froch, or that a five-round demolition of the unbeaten Bute in Nottingham didn't, either, but often there's no clear method or key ingredient when it comes to capturing the public's imagination. It just happens. Fierce rivalry and trash talk typically help: so, too, do drama and controversy. And Froch and Groves, in tandem, produced all of those things and more. "Tonight is about enjoying a great night for British boxing and finishing a little era for Carl Froch," said promoter Eddie Hearn. "Listen, it takes two to tango, and George Groves promoting this fight has been absolutely fantastic. He's made it the big event just as much as Carl Froch has. You've got to take your hat off to him, and I'm sure he'll come again. But there was so much pressure on Carl Froch tonight, and if he'd lost, he would have been gutted. You just can't keep him down."

Now Froch, at 37, prepares to reap the rewards of finishing big business on the grandest stage. This means his followers, some of whom will be new and unaware, can go back and look at his previous fights, many of which are as thrilling as you could ever hope to see, and appreciate what came before that momentous night at Wembley Stadium. They can understand what it took for him to reach that point; the war with Pascal, the eleventh-hour salvo against Taylor, the schooling of Abraham, the mauling of Bute and the two shootouts with Kessler. They can appreciate that while some of these fights may not have delivered Froch the riches, attention or mainstream recognition he deserved, they gave him the experience he'd ultimately use to come up trumps on his defining night in May. He has, lest we forget,

always played the long game. Just ask poor Jermain.

As for what's next, Froch currently finds himself in a position eerily similar to that of Calzaghe after he'd beaten Kessler to unify the world super middleweight titles in 2007. Legacy secured, he has now fended off many of the best fighters of his era and seeks fulfilment in the form of specific, personal goals. Just as Calzaghe went Stateside in the twilight of his career to rub shoulders with Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones, Froch may end up doing something similar. Indeed, there's already talk of him comparing granite jaws with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. in Vegas later this year.

"That's something Rob (McCracken, trainer) and Carl will decide," said Hearn. "It's got to be something that makes him get out of bed early in the morning, do his hill runs, something that drives him. He's a very self-motivated man anyway, but I know how much he put into [the Groves rematch]. We had a chat at his flat today, and I said, "This fight is what you're going to be remembered for.

"It's time for him to have his summer break and for me to carve out opportunities to present to Rob and Carl. If they float his boat, I'm sure he'll fight again. If they don't, who knows?"

Nothing will appeal quite like the idea of finishing the Groves rivalry and his career with one right hand in front of 80,000 fans at Wembley Stadium. The perfect punch, the perfect end. But a revenge victory over the brilliant Andre Ward, the world's premier super middleweight, would catapult him to the summit of the division and immediately shift discussions about Carl Froch being an all-time great British boxer to Carl Froch being perhaps the *greatest* British boxer. Frankly, it's all that's left to do. A truly definitive ending. "The Cobra" likes those.

BONUS BEST I'VE FACED

Carl Froch has tremendous respect for two-time opponent Mikkel Kessler.

CARL FROCH

By **Tom Gray**

If you're only as good as your last fight, then Britain's Carl Froch is as good as ever.

On May 31, a U.K. post-World War II record of 80,000 fans packed Wembley Stadium in London to witness Froch shorten his strokes, up his game and produce a spectacular one-punch knockout of archrival George Groves in the eighth-round of a hate-fueled rematch.

"I am so satisfied," Froch said of the finishing right hand. "It was a conclusive, unquestionable finish that I can't even put into words. I've watched it about 100 times, and if you blink you miss it, but when you watch it properly, then that shot literally exploded on the point of his chin.

"You can tell I'm still enjoying this, can't you?"

Nobody can deny Carl Froch a bit of gloating. Wembley broke records, made history, and this

HENNING BAGGER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

incredible 37-year-old openly admits that it'll be almost impossible to top that momentous occasion. Still, there remains a swankier backdrop within which "The Cobra" has yet to strike.

"Boxing is an entertainment business" said Froch (33-2, 24 knockouts). "The only fight out there to get me motivated, to get people excited, is a Las Vegas rumble with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. I'm not in the game for money, but that is a lucrative match-up which will grab the attention of the American television networks.

"Chavez gives me a hard fight, and all the ingredients are there. His Mexican followers and my British support set against an American backdrop."

Yes, Froch vs. Chavez guarantees fireworks, but when you look back at the 12-year professional career of the three-time super middleweight titleholder, it has been one blazing bonfire after another.

The man of the moment agreed to speak to THE RING about the best opponents he's faced in 10 key categories.

BEST SKILLS

Andre Dirrell and Andre Ward: Dirrell was good boxing at range, and Ward is intelligent up close. Those two are standout.

BEST JAB

Ward: That is a key weapon for him, and he hooks well off the jab as well. He caught me with a lot of jabs in our fight and works that shot well to the body and head. He's also careful not to leave himself open when he jabs to the body, like I do sometimes. He gets in and gets out.

BEST DEFENSE

Ward: He nullifies opponents and takes away your advantages. He beat me fair and square, and always finds a way to win, but I wasn't switched on when we met the first time. Look at what I've done since that fight – five wins and four knockouts against top opposition. People say Ward outclassed me, but two of the judges had the fight 115-113 for a reason. Hypothetically, if a rematch ever happened in England, then I'm confident I could give him a good pasting. He made our fight boring, but I know what has to be done to make it exciting. As I said, though, television isn't interested and neither are the fans.

BEST CHIN

Glen Johnson: He was never in trouble, and I hit him with some really heavy digs. I saw him coming, set my feet, hit him with combinations, reset myself and hammered him with more big shots. All of that and he was going nowhere. He was switched on that night, because the prize was a huge fight with Ward, so I had to be on form.

BEST PUNCHER

Robin Reid: He hurt me the most with a single shot. I can't say George Groves because he caught me square on in the first fight, when I left my feet behind me. That was a heavy knockdown made worse by my balance being off. Also, after his fast start dwindled, I came on strong, so I can't say Groves. I remember Reid hitting me and saying, f------ hell that hurt. Jermain Taylor had me down, but that was more of a sharp shot. Robin Reid could really bang, and in my opinion he deserved the win over Joe Calzaghe in their fight. That said, Calzaghe had to be tough to walk through the right hands he took from Reid.

FASTEST HANDS

Dirrell: Dirrell was like lightning. He was fast, athletic, good on his feet and he could bang. Dirrell perhaps lacked the mindset for the game, and without that you're just a fancy sports car, running on empty. Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.

FASTEST FEET

Dirrell: He fought scared, and I think I got into his head a bit during the buildup. It was close on the scoring because of his movement, but I just kept applying the pressure. Dirrell was never the same after that fight, although he was looking great against Arthur Abraham before being knocked out illegally. Andre Dirrell was a very good fighter – amateur and professional.

SMARTEST

Ward: He's good at what he does, very effective, and he knows how to beat you in a bore-fest. He's able to get off what works best for him, which is very clever. It's just unfortunate that nobody wants to watch Andre Ward fight. I could do far better against him in a rematch, but I don't have the motivation, and nobody is demanding it now.

STRONGEST

No one in particular: There's honestly not one name that sticks out here. Arthur Abraham was strong, but he couldn't hit me. Mikkel Kessler and Jean Pascal were strong. At that level, they're all f------ strong, let's be honest.

BEST OVERALL

Mikkel Kessler: He's the best all-rounder. He can box, punch, fight up close, and his jab is excellent. The reason his jab is so effective is because he's left-handed but fights orthodox. Kessler has good defense, but he'll stand there and have a fight with you. He is one very tough man and took great shots from me in both our fights.

THIS TOPPED THEM ALL

OUR U.K. CORRESPONDENT LOOKS BACK ON AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT AT WEMBLEY STADIUM

By **Gareth A Davies**

Carl Froch thoroughly enjoyed the greatest moment in his boxing career.

BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Five days after the crowning moment of his career, I am sitting next to Carl Froch in a studio about to go on-air on Sky Sports' magazine show *Ringside*. Two blackened eyes, trophies from his fistic accomplishment, had been disguised minutes earlier in the makeup truck.

As the television directors rehearse, playing reruns of the chilling eighth-round knockout that left George Groves crumpled like clothes dropped into a suitcase, the victor observes and savors each repeat like a masterpiece he's painted.

His partner, Rachael, the mother of his two young children, sits in one of two rows of seats on the other side of the studio. They exchange knowing looks.

Froch twists his head sideways, leans in to me and whispers: "Eddie Hearn would like me to fight again in November, maybe December. But I'd like Julio Cesar Chavez (Jr.) next year." Always his own man. And now, a modern great in British boxing. At the television studio, Froch had the air of a man whose career is far from over.

For years, the rugged man from Nottingham had craved widespread acceptance from the British public, believing he merited the mention among British boxing's elite modern champions: Hamed, Lewis, Hatton, Calzaghe. Now he had it.

Never would Froch have imagined – over those six years of elite-level fights against formidable names – that a young upstart from west London, claiming to be his nemesis, would become the perfect foil.

It is no exaggeration to view Froch-Groves II as an enormous occasion in British sport, not just in prizefighting. An estimated 80,000 filled the national football stadium on an electrically charged evening that was beamed worldwide on television.

There is nothing like reporting

on these great fights. I've covered a football match in Tehran, in the Azadi Stadium, with a call to prayer with 144,000 people at half-time, armed soldiers atop the stadium and huge cauldrons of fire around the lip of the giant concrete bowl; been at Olympic and Paralympic Games Opening Ceremonies; and, indeed, major nights in Las Vegas over the years, but for some reason, this topped them all.

The night sky above the hallowed turf of Wembley turned a dark blue for the main event, allowing the lights in the stadium to become more visible. The growing energy from the stands was honed in on ringside.

Nothing compares to the moment when a huge crowd roars its salute to two men making their lone walk to the ring, to bare flesh and soul. It is deep, dark and primeval. These moments sit deep in the soul. Drums sounded as both men reached the ring. Fitting for this ancient sport.

The Rickey Hatton-Floyd Mayweather Jr. fight six years ago In Las Vegas remains the pay-per-view standard on these shores, reaching a fever pitch and 1.2 million buys – 300,000 more than Froch-Groves II.

Yet Wembley proved to be grander than Hatton's homecoming against Juan Lazcano with 55,000 fans for the favored son of Manchester; bigger than Joe Calzaghe's night against Mikkel Kessler in Cardiff, and as heightened as the nights when Prince Naseem Hamed enthralled the nation with his razzamatazz, dazzling somersaults into the ring and jack-in-the-box knockout finishes.

Froch-Groves II reminded everyone that even though boxing moved from terrestrial television to subscription and pay-per-view in the past 20 years, prizefighting could still capture the public imagination. For this fight, boxing found itself in the rarefied air of front, center and back page coverage in the biggest newspapers.

It was the greatest boxing event in numbers since World War II, a buildup of bile and venom, argument and counter-claim to match any of the great grudge fights punctuating the long history of British boxing.

It bore all the hallmarks of previous fights smeared with poison. It was similar to the animosity between Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank, which ignited two classic world title fights in 1990 and 1993 and arguably the most memorable rivalry laced with ill will in British boxing history.

It recalled Mark Kaylor and Errol Christie, who met in a British middleweight title eliminator at Wembley in 1985. Hatred was ignited when Kaylor whispered in Christie's ear at the pre-fight press conference. Christie believed Kaylor used a racial epithet. They brawled, were pulled apart, and went at it again in the car park on the way out in front of press photographers. Death threats from racist fans toward Christie followed. When they met in the ring, both fighters forced knockdowns before Kaylor stopped Christie in Round 8.

Frank Bruno's 1993 meeting with Lennox Lewis for the WBC heavyweight title escalated into a bitter grudge match based around nationality. Bruno described Lewis – who had won Olympic gold for Canada – as "not British" and claimed that Britain did not care about him. Lewis, who was born in West Ham, countered by referring to Bruno as an "Uncle Tom" and derided Bruno's appearances in pantomime, saying he made a fool of himself "dressing like a girl" on stage. Lewis powered to victory in a seventh-round stoppage.

Froch-Groves had an extraordinarily long fuse that had been lit nine months earlier, and the trail led to the center of the Wembley pitch.

The pre-fight animosity between Carl Froch and George Groves was reminiscent of the bile generated by Nigel Benn (left) and Chris Eubank.

HOLLY STEIN/ALLSPORT

Neither protagonist disappointed on the grand stage. Groves was canny and cagey; Froch was patient and like a predator. Groves' pre-fight talk was designed to confuse, which he believed would contribute to a victory on points. Froch, as he had promised, was looking to trap and finish his foe.

It was a very small ring, the smallest permissible. That was the prerogative of Froch and his promotional firm, Matchroom Boxing. Perfect for the champion's plan.

That's what we witnessed at Wembley: a seasoned, patient elite-level fighter with killer instincts.

"From Round 5 onwards, I knew I was edging closer to him," Froch said. "Taking more, yes, but getting within range to trap Groves in a corner or on the ropes." It was 'The Cobra' at work.

A year ago in Letters From Europe, fresh from his victory over Mikkel Kessler in the rematch, I recalled the prophetic uttering of the late, great Manny Steward.

Steward, who we know trained a pantheon of boxing's most celebrated fighters in Lennox Lewis, Klitschko, Tommy Hearns, Oscar De La Hoya, Julio Cesar Chavez and many more, spoke privately to me about Froch before his passing.

"People used to say to me the kid has plenty of self-belief, but he's not very good. But they were wrong," Steward said. "When I saw him knock out Jermain Taylor, I was so impressed. Champions are made inside, and Froch is a tough guy inside. That's the one thing about all the best guys who I have worked with – they are mentally tough, arrogant, confident. [Froch] doesn't know how limited he is. He's a real tough man. That's as important, if not more important, than the boxing skills."

That epitomized the Carl Froch we saw on May 31 at Wembley. And Groves fell victim to that ruthlessness.

THIS TOPPED THEM ALL

★

Froch made his first post-fight appearance on television five days after the event. It was a privilege to be a few inches from him, discussing his performance with the pre-fight braggadocio having been tempered.

He strode to the ring looking mean, moody and magnificent.

"I didn't really take it in," he said. "I just had tunnel vision. Three months I'd had tunnel vision." Old school. And to perfection.

Cleverly, and at the behest of trainer Robert McCracken, Froch had taken advantage of the minds of sports scientists at the English Institute of Sport, where the British Amateur and Olympic boxing squads are based. He had also worked with sports psychologist Chris Marshall, breaking down the psychological games Groves was trying to play.

Groves said Froch was dirty, that he punched to the back of the head, that trainer McCracken encouraged it, that Froch was insecure, that he used his trainer as a crutch, that he was a limited, slow, aging, deluded fighter. With Marshall, each blow was lessened, and Froch turned the barbs in his mind from irritation into amusement. It allowed him to fight without emotion.

"You can expend emotional energy. But I was cool from weeks out," Froch said.

And so it played out. After the formalities following the fight, in a small room adjacent to the Wembley press-conference theater which had been replete with cameras and bodies, the relief and afterglow of Froch's performance was tangible.

Minutes earlier, I observed Froch kneeling down on the press-conference dais, neatly packing away his world title belts into their hard cases. It was like watching a man packing pressed clothes into a small overnight case.

Froch looked up at me watching him and grinned. "I'm a working-class man, and I have to look after my own belongings," he said.

Promoter Eddie Hearn is now working behind the scenes on a multi-million-pound blockbuster fight in Las Vegas, which he hopes will be aired on pay per view in the U.K. and the United States.

The Wembley Stadium event was billed as "Unfinished Business." That is now complete, but there is another chapter, maybe two, in the athletic tome of Froch's now gilded career.

One of them is that big Vegas fight, the platform so many elite British fighters crave. While Froch has campaigned in the United States in the past, there will now be a distinct difference. He can travel across The Pond with a following, just as Frank Bruno, Joe Calzaghe and Ricky Hatton did before him. An altogether different fistic sojourn.

There are multiple options for the IBF super middleweight titleholder. But stylistically, Hearn and Froch favor Chavez, son of the Mexican legend.

Having earned in the region of $12 million by fighting Groves, Froch will be expecting around $20 million to face Chavez, who is ranked No. 1 in the world by the WBC and WBO. Froch's stock has never been higher.

"Unless you can deliver something sensational, how do you get Carl motivated?" Hearn posited when I asked him about the options. "He's not fueled by money. He's got targets higher than money. During the buildup, or the

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

It was a hot night on May 31 at Wembley Stadium in London.

fight, or even the after-fight, has he mentioned money once?"

The highest athletic option open to Froch, though promotion-wise perhaps not the easiest or most winnable, is a return fight with Andre Ward, who defeated the Briton in 2011.

It is a rematch that could elevate Froch to Hall of Fame status should he win. The problem is that Ward has a stultifying style not particularly suited for the television market. The American is one of the top fighters in the world pound-for-pound yet does not draw a large following.

Froch doesn't seem to be interested in James DeGale, who delivered a fine fourth-round knockout of Brandon Gonzales on the Wembley undercard and is the mandatory IBF challenger. "He has to earn his stripes yet," Froch said on numerous occasions.

"Las Vegas is the fight capital of the world, and I'd like to tick that box and see my name up in lights," Froch said.

But the caveat, he says, is that he could walk away now if it suited him.

"I've had a fantastic, glossy, pro career for 12 years, I've got two WBC belts, the ("regular") WBA belt (which THE RING doesn't recognize), the IBF belt, I've had 13 or 14 world title fights back to back, and I've just fought in the national stadium and made history."

Froch reckons he was in better shape than when he blew away Lucian Bute. "I'm only 36," he said. (Froch turned 37 after this interview was done.) "You've seen what [Juan Manuel] Marquez did at 40. And [Bernard] Hopkins. There's no reason to say I'm going to hang my gloves up and retire after this fight. It's a load of rubbish. I'm not ready for retirement yet."

"I wouldn't go up in weight because I'm not a light heavyweight. Winning THE RING Magazine belt, winning the rematch against Andre Ward, who beat me – there's a few things out there still to do."

No matter what happens, the echoes of that Wembley night will stay with him. "It was an unbelievable night and occasion. Knocking Groves out was perfect. I've got nothing against the kid, and that's what he is, a kid. He got taught a valuable lesson from a very experienced, tough veteran of the boxing game."

Froch is now king of all he surveys and can do as he pleases in the future. A fortune banked, he seeks one, possibly two more fights. Vegas next against Chavez makes most sense. Cheers.

U.K. TOP 15

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. KELL BROOK
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. GEORGE GROVES
6. TYSON FURY
7. SCOTT QUIGG
8. JAMES DEGALE
9. JAMIE MCDONNELL
10. PAUL BUTLER

Five more (in alphabetical order): Nathan Cleverly, Martin Murray, Billy Joe Saunders, Stuart Hall, Tony Bellew.

Through fights of June 15, 2014

HALL OF FAME 2014

CLASSY

OSCAR DE LA HOYA AND FELIX TRINIDAD HAD A TESTY RIVALRY, BUT THEY CAME TOGETHER AS FRIENDS TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME

By **Bernard Fernandez**
Photographs by **Jeff Julian**

One and done.

A single bout pitting two highly skilled, evenly matched opponents sometimes is enough in boxing to create an indelible memory for the fighters involved and their fans. It's certainly better than none and done, which appears is the destiny of the long-hoped-for megafight between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao.

Oscar De La Hoya and Felix "Tito" Trinidad, who were enshrined together as part of the International Boxing Hall of Fame's 25th anniversary class, gave their legions of followers a taste of what should have been a multi-tiered arch-rivalry for the ages when they squared off in a welterweight unification showdown on Sept. 18, 1999, at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. It was a good fight, not a great one, but certainly a demonstration of the pugilistic arts at the elite level. And the controversy which attached itself to the ending, a disputed 12-round majority decision for Trinidad, should have dictated an Act 2, maybe an Act 3 and beyond.

But De La Hoya and Trinidad, still very much in their primes and among the most bankable boxers of their era, went their separate

REUNION

One-time rivals Felix Trinidad (left) and Oscar De La Hoya were all smiles during their induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June.

ways after that. What might have happened had there been De La Hoya-Trinidad II? Or III? The fighters themselves, now retired, sometimes wonder about that.

"That would have been satisfying," De La Hoya, in an interview with ESPN.com prior to IBHOF induction weekend, said of a rematch with Trinidad. "I never understood why I didn't have a rematch. I would have loved a rematch."

Mark Taffet, the HBO Pay Per View chief, flew in for the induction ceremony in Canastota, New York. He said HBO, which had a long and profitable relationship with both De La Hoya and Trinidad, would have moved mountains to make De La Hoya-Trinidad II happen. But some mountains can't be budged no matter how hard you shove.

"We tried," Taffet said of a fight that might have resulted in even more than the 1.4 million pay-per-view buys generated by the original. "We talked to Don (King, Trinidad's promoter) and Bob (Arum, De La Hoya's promoter) a number of times, but nothing ever came of it. I would have loved to see Oscar and Tito fight again."

Not that the failure to come to an agreement satisfactory to all parties is an unexplainable mystery. The primary sticking points in the immediate aftermath of the 1999 bout, and in the years to come, was how the huge financial pie would be divided. A secondary reason was a mutually acceptable weight limit. As the result of his admittedly controversial victory, Trinidad – who was obliged to take the short end of a 60-40 monetary split – demanded he get larger share for a rematch, which De La Hoya, the bigger drawing card, would not agree to.

The off-and-on matter of a second fight was raised again in 2006, by which time De La Hoya and Trinidad were 33 and not quite as dominant as they had been seven years earlier. But the familiar stumbling blocks again presented themselves, effectively killing any negotiations before they could take place.

"I'm saying this fight is never going to happen," De La Hoya, by then the founder and president of his own company, Golden Boy Promotions, responded when asked if another scrap with Trinidad could finally become reality. "Let's lay it to rest. I can't make 160, he can't make 154. So it can't happen. And they're asking 50-50. It is a joke, it's ridiculous.

"I gave specific instructions to Richard (Schaefer, then-Golden Boy's CEO) not to answer [King's] calls anymore. The train has left the station. They can call me a coward as much as they want, but the train has left. This fight will never happen."

But time and circumstance have a way of either softening or hardening individual perspectives. Enemies can become friends, or friends can become enemies. That immutable truth was clearly evident during four days in Canastota, where De La Hoya and Trinidad hugged each other so often that it must have seemed they were going

JEFF JULIAN

Joe Calzaghe (left) and father/trainer Enzo Calzaghe enjoyed every moment of Hall of Fame weekend.

steady. And the name of Richard Schaefer, who had resigned his position at Golden Boy less than a week prior to the induction ceremony, never once was uttered by his now-former business partner.

The only thing that seemed, well, normal during Sunday's well-attended induction ceremony was the coolness between King, who was there in support of Trinidad, and Arum, the Top Rank honcho whose bitter feud with Golden Boy (most specifically Schaefer) appears to be mending since De La Hoya's extending of the proverbial olive branch, a peace offering of which a recalcitrant Schaefer did not approve and could not abide. Top Rank even took out a full-page ad in the program which read: "Congratulations to our Champion, Oscar De La Hoya."

During his acceptance remarks, De La Hoya, who has taken a much more active role in the direction of Golden Boy Promotions after some well-documented personal issues, lavishly praised Trinidad while saying it was time for boxing's bickering potentates to try to make nice for the betterment of the sport.

"Tito and I grew up together in boxing," said De La Hoya, impeccably turned out in a tan suit, as he glanced over his right shoulder at Trinidad. "As our careers moved along on parallel tracks until we met one day in 1999. Some called it the 'Fight of the Millennium.' He was undefeated; I was undefeated. The Mandalay Bay was packed. Tens of millions tuned in. And you know what?"

Dramatic pause.

"Never mind."

That punch line, an obvious reference to the controversial nature of the decision, was delivered with a smile as spectators erupted in laughter.

Having paid homage to a respected rival, De La Hoya then turned to a more serious subject: the necessity of bickering promotional entities putting aside past differences to give fans the kind of fights they want and deserve to see. Fights, for instance, like De La Hoya-Trinidad.

"It's hard to believe that my first professional fight was more than two decades ago," he said. "During that time, much in the sport of boxing has changed, and much has stayed the same. What has stayed the same is the sense of community, of family, that pervades every corner.

"As fighters, we have lived a special kind of life that will bind us together forever, regardless of age, race or upbringing. Nearly all of us are defined by humble beginnings, incredibly hard work and passion for our trade. That was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow.

"As I walked around Canastota for the last four days, I was reminded of something I said a

while ago: Boxing is a never-ending story. New fighters keep coming along, new opponents keep popping up. The next superstar is always on the way. Even as this incredible group of gladiators (including longtime super middleweight champion Joe Calzaghe) goes into the Hall, the next great crop of fighters is already on the rise.

"Which brings me back to what's changed about our sport. When I hung up my gloves, I just couldn't leave the sport because boxing has historically been such a proud part of America. When I founded Golden Boy Promotions, it was with that in mind. My team and I set out to continue the rich tradition of what I consider to be the greatest sport ever invented."

As the captain of that reconstituted team, De La Hoya pledged that he will do everything in his power to ensure that the matchups the public demands be made even if that is sometimes easier said than done.

"Ladies and gentlemen, boxing is wonderful," De La Hoya continued. "But today our sport is not what it was once. Many of you know I faced significant personal challenges in my life over the last few years. In short, I went through hell. When I was struggling with my own issues, the one constant I could come back to, besides my family, was boxing.

"We must put aside the evils that have damaged our brand and sullied our reputation. We, the promoters, must stop carrying grudges that have no purpose but to divide our sport. You have my pledge that from this moment forward, Golden Boy Promotions will double-down

JEFF JULIAN

Clockwise from top, inductee Richard Steele displays the clay used to make fist castings; Miss America Nina Davuluri, Grand Marshal of the Parade of Champions, enjoys the banquet; George Chuvalo accommodates autograph seekers; and Oscar De La Hoya reacts to the crowd at the parade.

on the very simple concept that we strive to achieve every single day – putting on the best fights for the best fans in the world."

If that vow proves to be more than empty rhetoric, the increasingly entwined legends of Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad, encapsulated by the sight of them happy together on the stage at the IBHOF, might even surpass their one night in the ring and the other nights that should have been and never were.

When they did step inside the ropes 15 years earlier, they were mirror images of one another in so many ways. Both were 26 years of age and had yet to taste defeat as professionals. De La Hoya, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, was 31-0 with 25 knockouts; Trinidad was 35-0 with 30 KOs. The prevailing theme was that this was an updated version of the first Sugar Ray Leonard-Thomas Hearns welterweight unification superfight that took place on Sept. 16, 1981, with Oscar cast in the role of Leonard and the power-punching Trinidad playing the part of a Puerto Rican "Hitman." Trailing on all three judges' scorecards, Leonard rallied to win on a dramatic 14th-round stoppage.

De La Hoya, however, figured he didn't need to come from behind. Boxing beautifully, he figured he had built a sizable enough lead through nine rounds that he could stay away from Trinidad's lethal left hook the last three rounds, all of which he lost on the cards submitted by judges Jerry Roth and Glen Hamada, while losing two of the three on Bob Logist's card. When the decision was announced – Roth and Logist had Trinidad winning 115-113 and 115-114, respectively, while Hamada had it 114-114 – Tito added Oscar's WBC 147-pound title to the IBF one he already owned.

"I thought I had it in the bag," De La Hoya said at the time. "I really, really did." For his part, Trinidad opined that De La Hoya's refusal to engage in the last three rounds was tantamount to surrender in any case.

So who would have won had a rematch occurred? Who can say with any certainty? The past cannot be retrieved and updated to suit individual preferences. All that we have is a fleeting present and the hope for a brighter future, which could be in the offing for the IBHOF as it embarks on a major fund-raising campaign to enlarge and enhance its currently cramped facilities. Toward that end, De La Hoya and WBA super middleweight champ Andre Ward, a first-time attendee at Hall of Fame weekend, each pledged $50,000, with the State of New York committed to provide $1 for every $2 raised by the IBHOF.

Money matters in boxing, and always has. But some things matter more, and in terms of what they brought to their craft this Oscar and Felix weren't such an odd couple after all. RING

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

By **Michael Rosenthal**

The one drawback to a monster year at the International Boxing Hall of Fame is that it's a tough act to follow.

Three major figures – Oscar De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad and Joe Calzaghe – headed the Class of 2014. The pickings are slimmer for 2015, when Genaro Hernandez and Michael Moorer become the biggest names eligible for induction.

Hernandez, a boxing wizard, and Moorer, who won titles in two divisions, both have a good chance to win election to the Hall.

Hernandez, one of the sport's all-time nice guys who died from cancer in 2011, was a dominating junior lightweight for eight-plus years in the 1990s. He stopped Daniel Londas in nine rounds in 1991 to win the vacant WBA title and successfully defended eight times before vacating.

The Los Angeles-area product won the WBC version of the 130-pound title by outpointing the great Azumah Nelson in 1997, Hernandez's greatest triumph. He successfully defended three times before losing the belt to a talented young contender in Floyd Mayweather Jr. the following year, Hernandez's last fight.

Hernandez's only other loss was a failed attempt to take Oscar De La Hoya's WBO lightweight title in 1995. He entered the fight with a damaged nose and couldn't make it past six rounds.

Years later, Hernandez's brother and trainer, Rudy Hernandez, told me that the Mayweather fight was the only one on his résumé that Genaro could never have won.

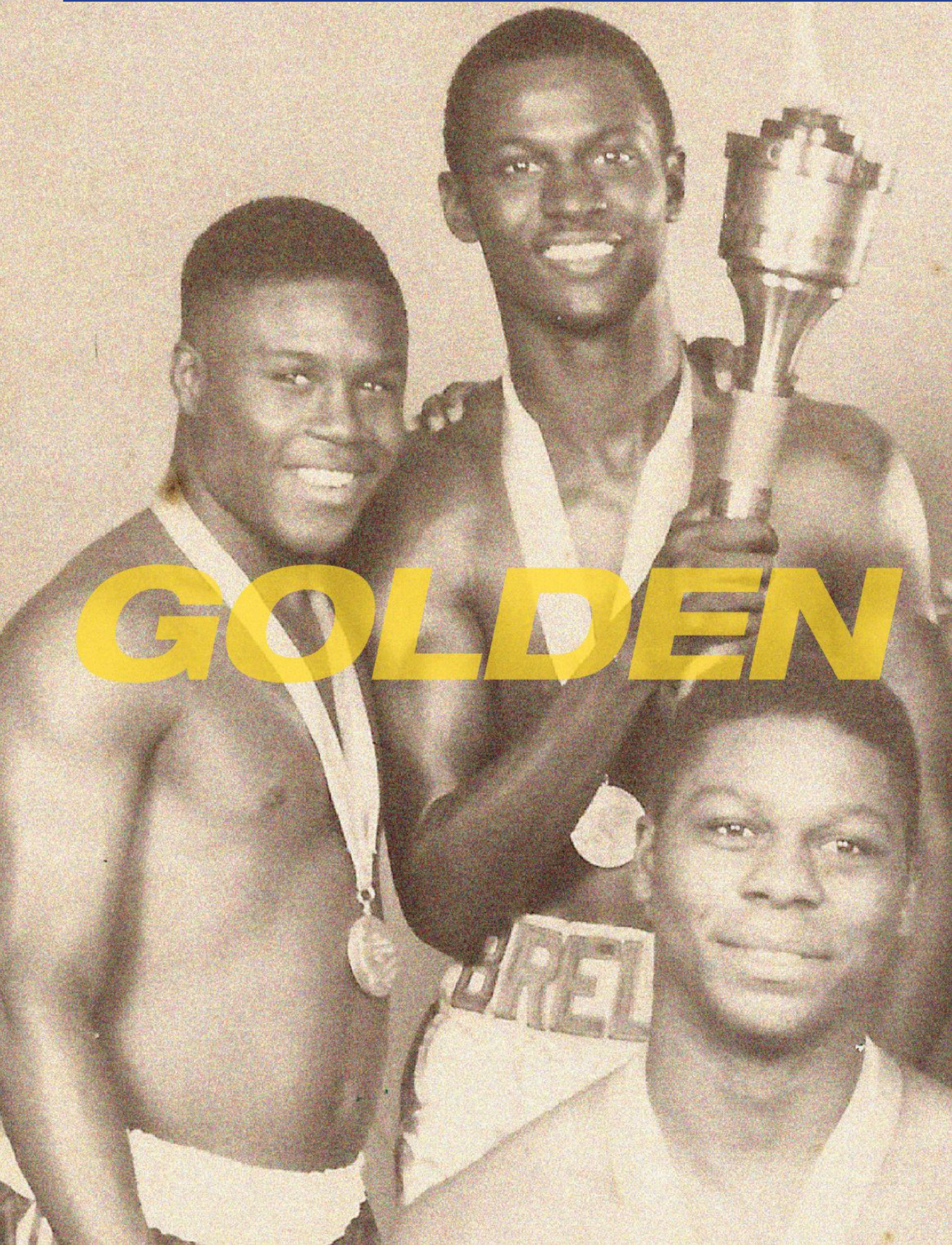
Moorer, as sullen as Hernandez was gregarious, is most remembered for losing the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles as a result of one punch from 45-year-old George Foreman in 1994. However, he was more than that. He won three major heavyweight titles, stopping Bert Cooper in the fifth round to win the WBO version in 1992, winning two titles by decisioning Evander Holyfield in 1994 and outpointing Axel Schulz to regain the vacant IBF belt in 1996.

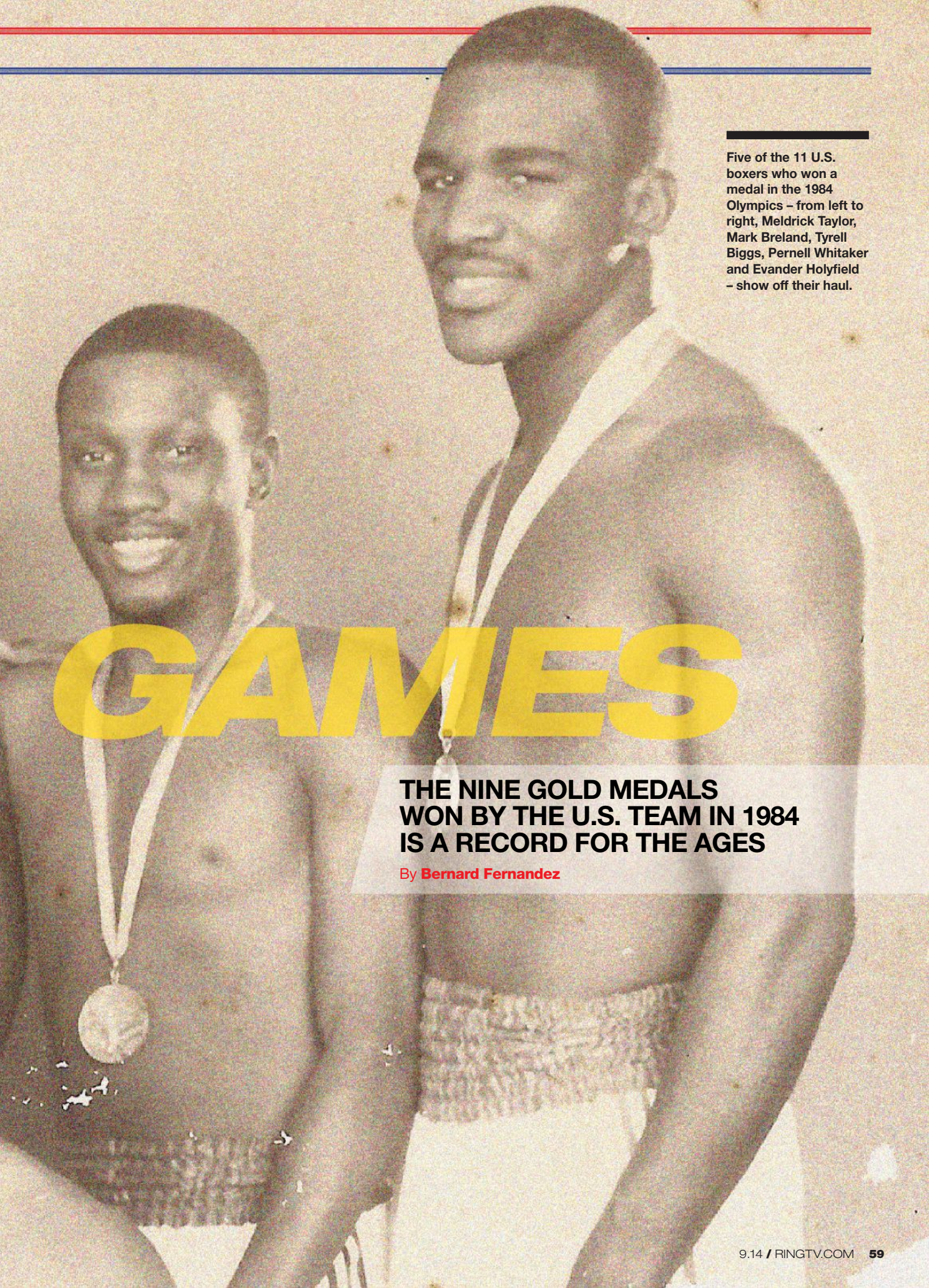
Moorer was 30-4-1 as a heavyweight, including a record of 5-2 in title fights.

Perhaps less memorable is that he was a terror at 175 pounds, at which he knocked out all 22 of his opponents – eight in the first round. He KO'd Ramzi Hassan in five rounds to win the vacant WBO light heavyweight title and successfully defended nine times before vacating and moving up to heavyweight.

A knock on Moorer at light heavyweight is that the level of his opposition wasn't strong.

Also, the slow year could open the door for other deserving fighters – such as four-time flyweight champ Pone Kingpetch; Masao Ohba, the flyweight titleholder who was killed in a car crash while champion; two-division titleholder Nigel Benn; and middleweight contender Eddie Booker. ★


GOLDEN



Five of the 11 U.S. boxers who won a medal in the 1984 Olympics – from left to right, Meldrick Taylor, Mark Breland, Tyrell Biggs, Pernell Whitaker and Evander Holyfield – show off their haul.

GAMES

THE NINE GOLD MEDALS WON BY THE U.S. TEAM IN 1984 IS A RECORD FOR THE AGES

By **Bernard Fernandez**

Anyone who has ever read Alexandre Dumas' classic novel, *The Three Musketeers,* knows that the rallying cry of those swashbuckling, 17th-century French heroes – Athos, Porthos, Aramis and a young, impetuous later addition to the group, d'Artagnan – was "All for one, one for all."

One hundred and 40 years after *The Three Musketeers* was published in 1844, a similar band of brothers swept onto the scene at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, thrusting and parrying with gloved fists instead of the rapiers brandished by Dumas' fictional creations. In terms of medals won – nine golds, a silver and a bronze – that '84 United States Olympic boxing team not only is the most successful domestic contingent in any Olympiad, but the most successful fielded by any country. Considering that the U.S. has totaled just one gold medal in boxing in the past three Olympic competitions, it is reasonable to assume that what that 1984 team achieved will never be approached again by an American unit.

"Today's youth need to be reminded about our '84 Olympic boxing team, not only because of how successful we were, but because of what we represented," said Frank Tate, the gold medalist at 156 pounds who was attempting to organize a 30-year reunion of surviving members on Aug. 7-11 in Las Vegas. "Here we are, the greatest Olympic boxing team ever, 12 guys who were very good at what we did and united in a common goal, and a lot of kids don't know nothin' about that."

Asked whether it's really beyond dispute that the 1984 team was better than the celebrated 1976 group that won five gold medals and seven overall in Montreal, Tate snorted in derision that anyone would even dare to broach the issue.

"It don't come close," he said with an air of absolute finality. "I don't care what nobody says. If I don't do anything else in life, that gold medal is going to stick with me. You lose a belt as a pro, what do they call you? A *former* champion. But if you win a gold medal, you're a gold medalist forever.

"I guarantee you are not going to see anything like we did in boxing ever again. Nine gold medalists from the same country? Eleven overall medalists? That's history, man. It's history that shouldn't be allowed to disappear."

As a self-proclaimed keeper of the flame, Tate, who later won the IBF middleweight title, said he will work toward getting the 1984 U.S. Olympic team enshrined as a unit in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, which could be problematic since the IBHOF's rules stipulate that fighters retired for at least five years be considered solely on the basis of their accomplishments as professionals. He also thinks Hollywood should make a movie about the '84 squad. Hey, if what the U.S. hockey team did in 1980 – the year of the "Miracle on Ice" – got the big-screen treatment, why not a group of boxers whose stories, individually and collectively, are no less compelling?

Evander Holyfield, who had to settle for a bronze in the 178-pound weight class as the result of a horrible call by an incompetent or perhaps biased Yugoslavian referee, is a lock to become the third 1984 Olympian to have his plaque hung at the IBHOF once he becomes eligible in 2017. He will join Pernell Whitaker (2007) and Virgil Hill (2013).

Holyfield likes Tate's notion of the entire '84 team making it to Canastota *en masse*.

"That really sounds good," said the now-legendary Holyfield, who rebounded from his Olympic disappointment to become undisputed cruiserweight champion and a five-time heavyweight titlist. "That would allow more of our guys to get the recognition they deserve.

"Look, we all know records are meant to be broken. But our record is going to be awfully hard to break. I just don't see it happening."

Speak to any of the surviving members of the 1984 team – Steve McCrory, the gold medalist at 112 pounds, was just 36 when he passed away after a prolonged illness in 2000, and head coach Pat Nappi died in 1993 – and the prevailing sentiment expressed is friendship and the forging of bonds that time and circumstance cannot break. They were, in a sense, the 12 Musketeers, then and now all for one and one for all.

"All of the guys were close; we were a close-knit team," said Mark Breland, who took gold at 147 pounds and was the most hyped American boxer going into the '84 Games. "I started meeting some of the guys who were on that team years earlier, when I was like 16 or 17. We came up as kids and fought in a lot of tournaments together. And

GETTY IMAGES

Heavyweight Henry Tillman (left) beat out Mike Tyson to make the team and then won the gold medal.

it wasn't just that we've known each other for a long time. We *liked* one another. Still do."

Added 106-pound gold medalist Paul Gonzales, who was awarded the Val Barker Trophy as the Most Outstanding Boxer of those Olympics: "We were like a family, like brothers. We worked hard together, we stood by each other, we traveled to distant countries together. It wasn't like our team was a bunch of strangers that got thrown together on short notice. We all knew each other for a long time, and we were used to seeing each other win at high levels."

But, as is the case with any fuzzy-warm tale that seems too good to be true, there were at least a few shadows hovering over the preferred narrative of a bunch of young, talented boxers from across America who joined together to make magic. The foremost of those is the fact that the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics were boycotted by the Soviet Union and 13 other countries in retaliation for the U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics. There is a sentiment in some quarters that the absence of those nations, many of which were international powers in amateur boxing, serves to diminish the bountiful harvest reaped by the '84 U.S. team against a thinned field.

"I may be biased, but I consider my team better than any other team," said Sugar Ray Leonard, the breakout star of the 1976 Olympics who upset Cuba's Andres Aldama for the gold medal at 139 pounds. "We went to Montreal favored to win only one gold medal, and that was by Howard Davis. But we surprised a lot of people, didn't we? We showed the world that we had an incredible team. All of our final matches were against Cuba, against Russia. To win, we had to beat the best of the best."

Longtime Associated Press boxing writer Ed Schuyler Jr., now retired, covered both the '76 and '84 Olympics, and he agrees with Leonard. "That 1976 team (which also included gold-medal-winning brothers Leon and Michael Spinks) was by far the best the United States has ever produced," he said. "Hands down. It's not fair to even compare that bunch with any other."

But several members of the 1984 team said any contention that they rolled through a bunch of soft touches doesn't wash. They did compete against the Soviet Bloc countries and Cuba and won the lion's share of those showdowns. It's just that, well, their victories came on a pre-Olympic "world tour" of nation vs. nation matches and not in Los Angeles for the big quadrennial party.

"No, we didn't go against Cuba and Russia, but we had guys who beat Cubans and Russians before the Olympics," said Robert Shannon, the 106-pound representative who was the only American not to medal. "Three of our guys were world amateur champions. Six went on to win world championships as pros. If that's not a great team, the greatest Olympic boxing team ever, I don't know what is."

Any Olympics, of course, is fertile ground for controversy. And the '84 U.S. boxing team was on each side of protested outcomes that demonstrated how delicate the balance is between actual performance and the sort of political intrigue that can make for flared tempers and frayed nerves.

Holyfield had to beat U.S. Olympic trials winner Ricky Womack twice at the box-offs to make the team, knocked out his first four opponents in spectacular fashion and seemed well on his way to winning America's 10th gold medal. He was in the process of destroying New Zealand's Kevin Barry in the semifinals when referee Gligorije Novicic yelled "Stop!"

THE 1984 U.S. TEAM

1984 U.S. Olympic boxing team and how they did as pros.

GOLD MEDALS (9)

PAUL GONZALES
Division: 106 pounds • **Hometown:** Los Angeles • **Pro record:** 16-4, 3 KOs (no titles) • **Background:** Recipient of Val Barker Trophy as Outstanding Boxer at 1984 Olympics. Pro career stymied by multiple injuries.

STEVE McCRORY
Division: 112 pounds • **Hometown:** Detroit • **Pro record:** 30-5-1, 12 KOs (no titles) • **Background:** Brother of former welterweight champ Milton McCrory. Died in 2000 after a lengthy illness.

MELDRICK TAYLOR
Division: 125 pounds • **Hometown:** Philadelphia • **Pro record:** 38-8-1, 20 KOs (2 titles) • **Background:** Youngest boxer, at 17, ever to win an Olympic gold medal. Held world titles at junior welterweight and welterweight.

PERNELL WHITAKER
Division: 132 pounds • **Hometown:** Norfolk, Va. • **Pro record:** 40-4-1, 17 KOs (7 titles) • **Background:** Southpaw slickster held world titles in four divisions. Inducted into International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2007.

JERRY PAGE
Division: 139 pounds • **Hometown:** Columbus, Ohio • **Pro record:** 11-4, 5 KOs (no titles) • **Background:** Two of his Olympic victories on points were viewed by some as home-country cooking. Has worked with youth boxers in his hometown.

MARK BRELAND
Division: 147 pounds • **Hometown:** Brooklyn, N.Y. • **Pro record:** 35-3-1, 25 KOs (2 titles) • **Background:** With a 110-1 record, the five-time New York Golden Gloves champion arguably is the most successful American amateur boxer ever. Two-time welterweight titlist.

FRANK TATE
Division: 156 pounds • **Hometown:** Detroit • Pro record: 41-5, 24 KOs (1 title) • **Background:** Took express route to his gold. Among his five victories were three 5-0 decisions, a walkover and a first-round stoppage. Won world middleweight title.

Virgil Hill (left) didn't win a gold medal in 1984 but had a Hall of Fame pro career.

HENRY TILLMAN
Division: 201 pounds • **Hometown:** Los Angeles • **Pro record:** 25-6, 16 KOs (no titles) • **Background:** Got his gold only two years after taking up boxing, along the way twice outpointing a 17-year-old Mike Tyson at the U.S. Olympic trials.

TYRELL BIGGS
Division: 201+ pounds • **Hometown:** Philadelphia • **Pro record:** 30-10, 20 KOs (no titles) • **Background:** First Olympic super heavyweight champion ever caught a break with the Cuban boycott, which meant he didn't have to face the great Teofilo Stevenson.

SILVER MEDAL (1)

VIRGIL HILL
Division: 165 pounds • **Hometown:** Williston, N.D. • **Pro record:** 50-7, 23 KOs (5 titles) • **Background:** Held world titles at light heavyweight and cruiserweight, going 22-5 in championship bouts. Inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2013.

BRONZE MEDAL (1)

EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Division: 178 pounds • **Hometown:** Atlanta • **Pro record:** 44-10-2, 29 KOs (12 titles) • **Background:** Was disqualified in the semi-finals against Kevin Barry for hitting after the break. Future Hall of Famer went on to become undisputed cruiserweight champ and five-time heavyweight titlist.

NO MEDAL (1)

ROBERT SHANNON
Division: 119 pounds • **Hometown:** Seattle • **Pro record:** 18-6-2, 8 KOs (no titles) • **Background:** Was eliminated in the second round, leaving him as the only member of the team who failed to medal. Never fought for a major title as a pro.

COACHING STAFF

PAT NAPPI (HEAD COACH)
The retired Army master sergeant was U.S. Olympic head coach in 1976, 1980 (the team that did not go to Moscow because of the American boycott) and 1984. Was 75 when he died in 1993.

ROOSEVELT SANDERS (ASSISTANT)
The All-Armed Forces champion in 1961 while in the Marines. Was inducted into USA Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993.

KEN ADAMS (ASSISTANT)
Longtime Army non-commissioned officer was head coach of 1988 U.S. Olympic boxing team.

— Bernard Fernandez

TAYLOR: GETTY IMAGES; HOLYFIELD: JACK GUEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Taylor seemed to be humbled during the playing of the national anthem at the medal ceremony.

a split-second before Holyfield's crushing left hook landed flush on Barry's jaw, sending him crash-diving to the canvas. Novicic immediately disqualified a stunned Holyfield for hitting on the break.

A monumental error in judgment? Or was Novicic intentionally trying to protect his countryman, Anton Josipovic, who had won his 178-pound semi in the preceding bout and would have been served up as a human sacrifice to Holyfield in the gold medal bout? Josipovic then won gold on a walkover as Barry was medically ineligible to fight for 28 days as the result of being stopped by a head blow.

The U.S. filed an immediate protest, which, of course, was denied, as no protest in Olympic history has ever been upheld. The experience left a sour taste in Holyfield's mouth, but not so much as you might imagine. He says being a part of that Olympic team is still the high point of his boxing career.

"Representing my country, the spirit of the Games … those were important to me, and still are," he said. "My first goal was to make the Olympic team. I did that. Of course, I wanted to win a gold medal, but then that incident happened, and what happened afterward is a good example of what sports is really about, or should be. The gold medal guy brought me up to the top of the medal stand with him. He knew, like everybody else, that I deserved to win the gold medal.

"Winning is great, but keeping your composure when things don't go your way is also important. Sportsmanship is important. I grew as a person from my time at the Olympics."

Holyfield's graciousness in the face of adversity wasn't matched by Kim Seung-youn, president of the Korean Boxing Federation, who was incensed when one of his country's fighters, Kim Dong Kil, lost a somewhat dubious 4-1 decision in the 139-pound quarterfinals to eventual U.S. gold medalist Jerry Page. "When the Americans get in the ring they always win, and personally I believe some of them lose," Kim complained. "But nobody listens to me. If they run it like here, then should we run it the same way in Seoul in 1988? Should I just give 12 gold medals to the Korean fighters?"

Well, maybe not all 12. But in the '88 Seoul Olympics, South Korean Park Si-Hun "won" the 156-pound final against America's Roy Jones Jr. by an outrageous 3-2 decision from the judges, apparently because Park did such a splendid job of beating up Jones' fists with his face.

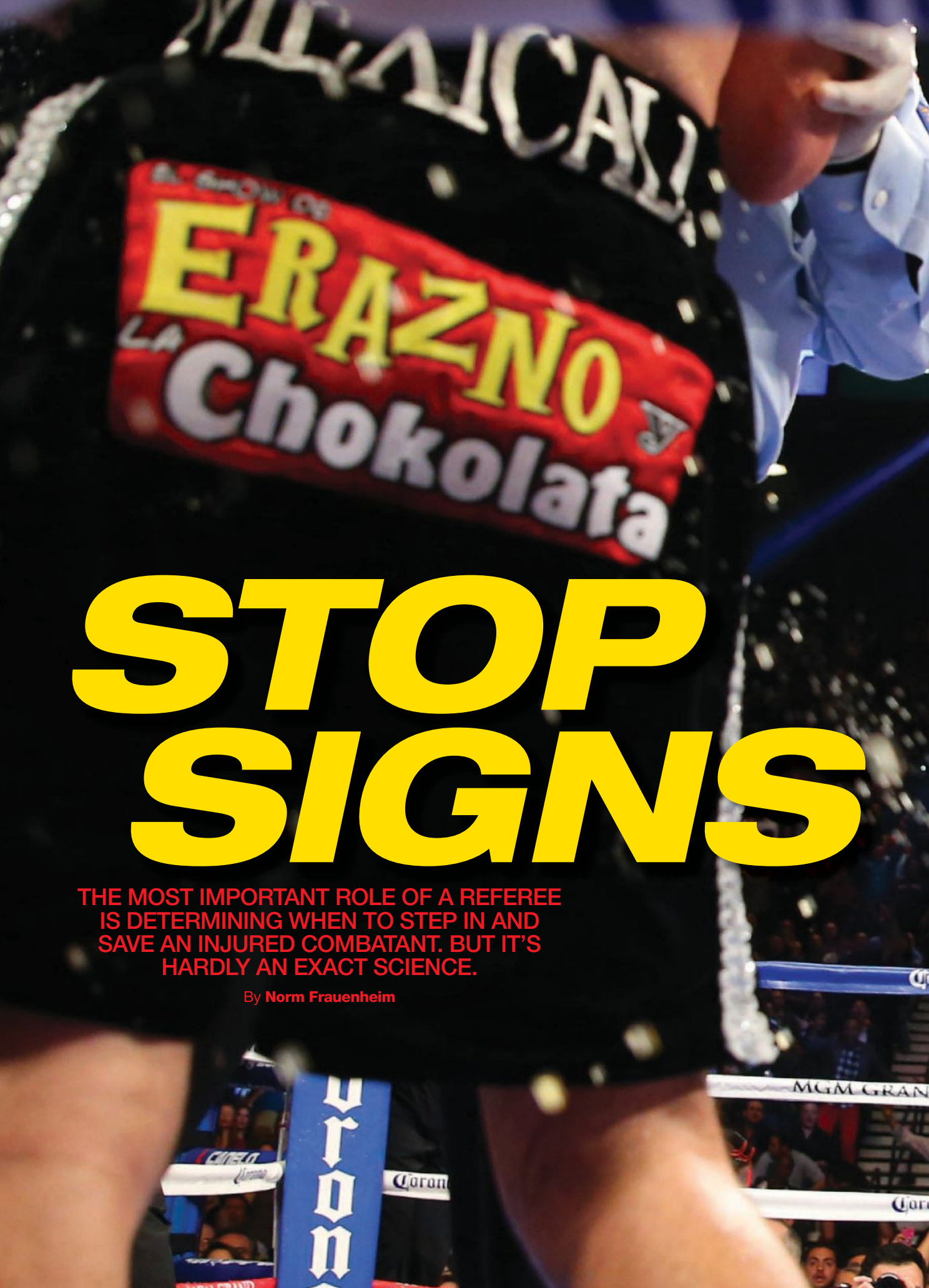
Payback can be a bitch sometimes.

If Tate doesn't succeed with the IBHOF thing or in getting the movie made, he said he has another quest in mind. He trains fighters, as does Breland, and he thinks they'd be perfect choices to lend their expertise to the 2016 U.S. Olympic team that will compete in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"Why not bring in a couple of gold medalists from the best U.S. Olympic boxing team ever to coach the 2016 team?" he asked. "Me and Mark have talked about doing that. Why not us? Who knows more about what it takes to be successful at the Olympics than us?" RING

AT RINGTV.COM

Robert Shannon, the only American who failed to win a medal in 1984, felt honored to be part of the team. GO TO: http://bit.ly/robertshannon



STOP SIGNS

THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE OF A REFEREE IS DETERMINING WHEN TO STEP IN AND SAVE AN INJURED COMBATANT. BUT IT'S HARDLY AN EXACT SCIENCE.

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Referee Tony Weeks decided in the 10th round that Alfredo Angulo had taken enough punishment from Canelo Alvarez, a decision some questioned.

EPA/HOLLAND/GOLDEN BOY/GOLDEN BOY VIA GETTY IMAGES

The "technical" in TKO is about as familiar as the black bow-tie that identifies a referee. It's a one-word statement, a quick summary of the result. But no single word, much less one third of an old acronym, can ever explain what happened. Or how it happened. Stoppages are often subjective. Sometimes, they're timely. Sometimes, they're trouble.

In the end, none are officially remembered as technical, anyway. In the published record attached to every fighter's name, it's just another KO. The T is gone, discarded like a bloodied, sweat-soaked bow-tie after a long night of work that ended in a tough call from the ring's lonely third man. But the stories endure, mostly because the responsibility never goes away. Making the right stoppage is the biggest part of a referee's job. The toughest part, too.

Too late, and a life is in peril.

Too early, and a promising career ends.

"There's a real fine art to when to stop it," said California referee Jack Reiss, who has worked about 2,000 bouts, including more than 40 world-title fights.

From death to dementia, the late stoppage, or no stoppage at all, leads to the kind of human tragedy that has long haunted boxing. The premature stoppage leads to a fighter or his corner complaining to fans and media that he was robbed. That's not good for the game or the frustrated fighter, either.

At best, it's a dilemma, an unforgiving task not for the faint of heart.

"Above all, we're there to protect fighters from unnecessary harm," Reiss said. "We can't protect them from all harm, because it's their choice to be in the ring. They've chosen to be there. But we do protect them from the unnecessary harm that comes from not being able to intelligently defend themselves.

"Look, it's impossible to stop a fight perfectly every time, because every fight is moving and changing every second. You're moving with the fighter. Sometimes, it's just the difference of one punch. Then, there are the recuperative powers that these guys have because they're such great athletes.

"Sometimes, you stop it a little before and sometimes it's a little bit after that perfect moment. But picture this: There's a 10-percent window before and 10-percent window after the time that is acceptable in the upper, elite ranks. Some people will still say, 'Oh, that stoppage was one punch too soon or two punches too late.' I always work to be perfect. But, like I said, that's hard to do. Above all, I try to get within one of those two categories, within that 10 percent."

What's 100 percent certain is criticism. Reiss expects it, especially amid the immediacy of today's social media. But critics have been there in every era. Boos – expressed in digital or on newsprint or in person – are an expected byproduct of a decision baseball umpires and NFL line judges don't have to make. Unlike the NBA, there's no make-up call. Boos at a stoppage can also be the mildest form of criticism hurled at a boxing ref. Bruce McTavish, a longtime referee from New Zealand and now a resident of the Philippines, likes to tell a story about working a fight not long after he moved to Angeles City in the Filipino Province of Pampanga during the late 1980s.

"The opponent went down about six times," McTavish said in a story written by ring announcer Ted Lerner. "I should have stopped it earlier. But the guy kept getting up at about the count of one or two. So about the fourth round after the sixth knockdown, I stopped the fight and his corner man jumped in the ring, pulled out a .45, put it to my head and said he was going to kill me because he lost a lot of money.

Referee Richard Steele will be remembered as much as anything else for stopping the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor fight with two seconds to go.

THE RING MAGAZINE

'ABOVE ALL, WE'RE THERE TO PROTECT FIGHTERS FROM UNNECESSARY HARM. WE CAN'T PROTECT THEM FROM ALL HARM, BECAUSE IT'S THEIR CHOICE TO BE IN THE RING.'
– REFEREE JACK REISS

"I said: 'What are you talking about?' He said it was a tactic, that his fighter goes down early and comes back strong. So I said to him: 'I wish you had told me before the fight, and I wouldn't have stopped it. Next time, I'll let him go.'"

The explanation was apparently enough for the cornerman to back off. McTavish said he put the pistol back in its holster, telling him he was very lucky.

"And I was very lucky," said the colorful McTavish, who in 2007 worked as a ref at Bangkok's Klong Prem Central Prison for a women's title fight featured in a National Geographic documentary called *The Black Rose of Thailand*.

Although extreme, the McTavish experience is a snapshot of what the best referees can expect in a career of trying to maintain order during a violent confrontation seemingly ruled by chaos. To wit: A controversial stoppage is part of the job. A referee's résumé without one probably doesn't include big-time fights, either.

The biggest controversy this year was Tony Weeks' 10th-round stoppage of Canelo Alvarez-Alfredo Angulo, the latter on the losing end, on March 8 in a junior middleweight fight. Angulo complained bitterly. The crowd at Las Vegas' MGM Grand booed loudly. Many in the Showtime audience turned to Twitter and booed in 140 characters.

"I have absolutely no reservations on what I did," Weeks told RingTV.com. "Given the past and recent tragedies in boxing, we have an obligation to protect these fighters as best we can. We're not God, and we don't know what's going on in these guys' heads and what's going on in their brains or what is happening to them, physically."

Weeks said he acted on what he saw, which included an accumulation of powerful punches from Canelo. Reiss said Weeks' decision was spot on. Fellow refs, fighters and analysts

agreed. In a poignant comment, welterweight-turned-ringside analyst Paulie Malignaggi said during the Showtime telecast that Angulo would get to watch his daughter grow up because of Weeks' timely stoppage.

"Absolutely the right call," Reiss said. "Sometimes, you have to save a fighter from himself. Angulo wouldn't have won on the scorecards. He wasn't throwing enough punches to have that puncher's chance. A lot of the same people complaining then would have blamed Tony if Angulo had suffered a brain bleed. Tony fulfilled his responsibility. He protected the fighter."

For any referee, that is the first commandment and the second, third and fourth commandments, too. The primary assignment has always been to ensure a fighter doesn't suffer injuries that could leave him disabled or worse.

That was as true for Weeks in April as it was for Richard Steele nearly 25 years ago. Oscar De La Hoya was still fighting as an amateur and Canelo was still a few months from being born when Julio Cesar Chavez defeated Meldrick Taylor by a 12th-round TKO in 1990, a stoppage as controversial as any. Steele ended it with two seconds left in the junior welterweight fight and Taylor leading on two of the three scorecards. Years, birthdays and presidents have come and gone, yet the argument continues about whether Taylor should have been allowed to finish a bout he would have won. Steele was asked about it all over again in June before his induction to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

Steele said he stopped it because of the sustained damage suffered by Taylor. Two more seconds only meant that there was chance that Chavez could have landed another big punch, perhaps the most dangerous one of all. Steele said it was a chance he couldn't permit because of what he had seen and not heard from Taylor, a 1984 Olympic gold medalist who was never the same after the bout.

"Unable to think, unable to talk," Steele told THE RING while recalling what he saw in Taylor as though it had happened a couple hours instead of two and a half decades ago.

Reiss doesn't know what he would have done in similar circumstances.

"Even with 20-20 hindsight and the fact that I'm a Monday-morning quarterback a whole lifetime later, it's just impossible to say," Reiss said. "If I was the ref and I heard the 10-second warning and I knew he wouldn't take another punch, I wouldn't stop the fight. But I don't know what Richard heard, or what he didn't hear, or what he saw."

Every stoppage comes about as the result of observing a fighter in the dressing room before opening bell and during his walk to the ring. No detail is too small, said Reiss, who says that a trained referee is the only one close enough to evaluate how a fighter reacts when hurt.

"It's a process," said Reiss, who grew up in New York and was a Los Angeles firefighter for 31 years, 19 as a captain. "First of all, you've got to know what you're looking at."

For Reiss, his evolution to world-class referee began with his experience as a fire captain, a first responder to accidents and incidents that are part of the daily life in urban America.

"I had a paramedic unit at my station," Reiss said. "I responded with these guys to all kinds of trauma. Shooting, stabbings, car accidents, gang wars, baseball bats over the head. So I'm very familiar with trauma, the effects of trauma. I pride myself in understanding what's going on inside the head when somebody is concussed. All of these things come into play in my decision-making in the ring."

In some aspects, Reiss' background is similar to that of

CONTROVERSIAL STOPPAGES

The list of questionable stoppages is a long one. Here are four that stand out:

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ vs. MELDRICK TAYLOR I

Date / location: March 17, 1990 / Las Vegas
Result: Chavez TKO, 2:58 of the 12th round
Referee: Richard Steele
The debate: The fight was stopped, but the argument never will be. Steele ended it with two seconds left and Taylor leading on two scorecards. Did Taylor earn the right to finish a fight he would have won? Or did Steele protect him from unnecessary harm after he went down in the closing moments?

MICHAEL DOKES vs. MIKE WEAVER I

Date / location: Dec. 10. 1982, Las Vegas
Result: Dokes TKO, 1:03 of the first round
Referee: Joey Curtis
The debate: Curtis stopped it 63 seconds after the opening bell, allowing Dokes to win the WBA's heavyweight title a month after Duk-Koo Kim died following a loss to Ray Mancini in the same Caesars Palace ring. "The referee was wrong," physician Dr. Donald Romeo said. "Weaver was fine."

LARRY HOLMES vs. RENALDO SNIPES

Date / location: Nov. 6, 1981, Pittsburgh
Result: Holmes TKO, 1:05 of the 11th round
Referee: Rudy Ortega
The debate: Snipes floored Holmes in the seventh. Holmes got up, then fell, face first. It should have been stopped, said Snipes, who said a long count allowed Holmes to survive. A brawl, security guards and all, erupted in the ring after Holmes won by TKO.

CARL FROCH vs. GEORGE GROVES I

Date / location: Nov. 23, 2013 / Manchester, England
Result: Froch TKO, 1:33 of the ninth round
Referee: Howard Foster
The debate: Foster stopped it with Groves leading on all the cards. Froch, knocked down in the first round, had Groves in trouble in the ninth when Foster ended it. Foster was hidden under a coat and hustled out of the ring when the crowd erupted in anger.

The vast majority of onlookers thought referee Howard Foster stopped the first fight between Carl Froch (right) and George Groves too early.

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

many who become referees. Steele was a Marine. Weeks has worked in the federal prison system. He first got interested in refereeing while working amateur fights at a prison in Arizona. All three learned how to evaluate human nature when confronted by trouble or engaged in combat. The key is reading body language, Reiss said.

"You've got to put it in understandable terms," Reiss said. "By that, I mean you've got to put on your doctor's cap when you step into the ring. When you and I go to the doctor, we sit down and talk to a guy who doesn't really know us. He'll ask us to tell us what we're feeling. Those are symptoms. Then, he'll take your blood pressure, tap your knee, whatever. He's looking for signs.

"As a referee, that's basically what we're doing. I'm looking for symptoms at all times and at every opportunity. Between rounds, I'll slip unobtrusively near a corner just to hear what's being said. I want to hear what a guy is saying. If he says he broke his hand or he's dizzy, I want to know that. I need to know that. Sometimes a guy wants to quit, but the bleeping corner won't let him.

"Then, you look to see if the guy's gait is off, or his muscle tone is sagging, or he can't keep his hands up, or he's breathing heavily, or his eyes are shut, or he's wincing. Whatever I see, it's just a tool that goes into whatever decision I'm going to make."

It's a process that demands uninterrupted vigilance and an innate ability to make a quick and accurate judgment. For Reiss and his colleagues, it begins and ends with what he calls an intelligent defense. Often, that's not what it appears to be. A fighter who is down and throwing punches is sometimes just acting out of instinct. Instead, Reiss says he is looking for somebody who is still aware enough to lean on his opponent and agile enough to move away in an attempt to recuperate. In other words, he's looking for a fighter still able to think through adversity.

In the end, it's the only way to make an intelligent decision. There might be controversy. There might be boos. But if the decision saves a life or a livelihood, the criticism is just another technicality – as in T for trivial. RING

Shawn Porter emerged as a champion and potential star in his last two fights.

JEFF BOTTARI; INSET: ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

FOOTBALL'S LOSS, BOXING'S GAIN

SHAWN PORTER HAS TAKEN AN UNUSUAL ROUTE TO THE TOP OF HIS CHOSEN PROFESSION

By **Ron Borges**

Porter demolished veteran Paulie Malignaggi in April.

Shawn Porter had something on his mind, so he asked his father to go for a walk. By the time it was over, so was his football career.

At the time, the future IBF welterweight titleholder was a 165-pound, two-time all-conference running back at Stow High School outside Akron, Ohio, with a pile of recruiting letters on his desk and a football future in front of him. Michigan was pestering him to come to Ann Arbor and ultimately replace Michael Hart, the Wolverines' all-time leading rusher at 5,040 yards, and it was not the only serious suitor for his services.

At 5-foot-9, Hart was one of a number of undersized runners doing well in Division-1 college football at the time, and Porter fit that mold. The only problem was it was a mold he wanted to break out of, and he felt he had the fists to do it. His father had other thoughts.

"I was pushing him to play college football," Kenny Porter said. "I'd spent many years around boxing [and] it wound up him convincing me to let him fight. I really love football, and Shawn did, too. I'm still sure it was probably his first love, but he came to talk with me, and I said 'Fine'. He said, 'No, Dad, I really need to talk to you.' That's when I knew he had something serious on his mind. He told me he didn't want to play college football.

FOOTBALL'S LOSS, BOXING'S GAIN

NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

I couldn't believe it. He didn't want to have to gain weight and sit behind somebody for a year or two, because he'd always played at every level.

"I told him it would be no problem. They'd get him up to 190, and it would be fine, but he told me he was ranked No. 1 in the U.S. at 165 (as an amateur boxer) and asked for permission not to go to college. Shawn was the kind of kid who always did what we asked. He was a model kid, really. It didn't make sense to me what he was asking, but he felt he could make the Olympic team. We walked for about an hour, and I finally said, 'OK, it's your life.'"

As things turned out, Porter finished his amateur career with a record of 276-14 but was knocked out by Cuban Emilio Correa at the Pan-American Games and failed to make the 2008 Olympic team, going to Beijing as an alternate. He was still convinced he would get the opportunity to fight. But when the uniforms were handed out he was off the team, a disappointment from which grew the fighter he would become.

"He was hurt," the elder Porter recalled. "He wasn't injured, he was hurt. A lot of things go on in boxing at all levels. It was just one of those situations you grow from. I told him to enjoy his time in Beijing. The adversity he dealt with made him stronger."

Strong enough that he would eventually accept his father's suggestion he move down from 165 pounds to 147 and go without a big-name promoter, two things that required not only acceptance, but faith that his father knew what he was doing. But before that happened, the elder Porter had to be convinced that prizefighting was really his son's vocation.

"I had never even had a conversation with Shawn about being a professional boxer," he recalled. "I had no designs on that. I didn't want to see him get hurt or get hit. I'd been in boxing since 1990 and seen a lot of things. In the amateurs my sons were competing, traveling, having fun, winning. They were never full-time fighters. In football season Shawn played football. In basketball season he played basketball. Then he boxed. This wasn't going to be their profession."

Porter's son had a different notion. Shawn Porter believed he was born to fight.

"I always wanted to be in the NFL, but as I got older and more realistic, you realize that won't happen," the younger Porter said. "My senior year I weighed my options. I thought college football would be cool, but I wasn't sure my body could take that [30- to 40-pound weight gain].

"I was disappointed about the Olympics, because I felt I was more skillful and more talented than some of the guys on the team, but I took a positive approach. When I got home, I had my fingers crossed that there would be a contract waiting for me."

There were a number of them, but just like the son had rejected those college scholarships, so the father rejected big-time promoters and decided that if his son was ready to bet on himself, so was he. Of course, by that point, what other choice did

Porter's strength and aggression can overwhelm opponents, as Malignaggi learned.

they really have?

"At that point, he'd given up the scholarships," recalled the elder Porter, who has trained his son throughout his career. "They were gone, so some decisions had to be made. I didn't try to talk him out of it any more. When he asked me who we were going to sign with, I told him, 'We're signing with us.' He looked at me with a question mark on his face. I just felt we could do it, so we signed with a small group in Mississippi – Prize Fight. They fought him 12 times in 14 months in small venues.

"They did a good job, but it got to a point they couldn't get us to where we needed to go, so we decided to go a different way. We sat out for 14 months. Then we did an amicable settlement. Six fights later, he's in a world championship fight."

Things didn't go quite that easily, however, because long before that title challenge came against Devon Alexander, another adjustment had to be made. A 20-pound adjustment to go from super middleweight to welterweight. It was the opposite direction most fighters head as they grow, but in this case, as in many others during their climb to the top of the welterweight division, father knew best.

"Once he stopped playing football and we paid closer attention to his diet, he started to lean out," the elder Porter said. "By his first pro fight he was 156 pounds. Around his 12th fight he was 153 and the day of the fight he was only 158, but the guy he was fighting was 165. I felt we were just giving up too much weight on fight night. Over the next two years we took it down slowly, and now he's one of the strongest guys in the welterweight division. We inched our way down. There's really no one who will be stronger than Shawn."

The fighter still hadn't bought completely into the weight-loss plan when it was time to make his welterweight debut on July 16, 2010.

"It's unbelievable," he said with a chuckle. "When my Dad first told me, I thought, 'What are you talking about?' But I accepted the challenge and took satisfaction making it. Looking back it was a lot easier than I thought. I'm about 160, 165 walking around weight, but I monitor it closely. I'm on the scales a couple times a day. Coming down from 165 we know we'll always be the stronger guy. Every time it happened, it was a little easier."

Everything was rolling along according to the grand plan until two weeks before Christmas three years ago. It was then that young Porter first ignored his father's advice, feeling the need perhaps to spread his wings. He moved out of the house they shared and began to spend more time with his friends. They were all nice enough fellows, but none of them were boxing for a living.

For a time, the father would argue, neither was his son. He was a boxer but not living the spartan life of the prizefighter. He was living, to be

honest, the way any 23-year-old kid might after he'd made a few bucks. The result was nearly disastrous, emphasis on the word "nearly."

Set to face former two-time lightweight champion Julio Diaz in California, Porter suddenly found himself back to football player weight and in need of his Dad's demanding focus on being a professional every night, not just on fight night.

"He was working in the gym but just showing up," Kenny Porter said. "He wasn't even really training with me. He'd left the house because he wanted to live life with his buddies. You can't do that if you're trying to become a world champion. They were good kids, but they didn't have the responsibility Shawn had. I told him they didn't have the discipline he had. He made a decision, but it was a young man's decision.

"Thirty-five days before the fight, he came to me and told me he was 20 pounds over and asked if we could go to training camp in Colorado. I wasn't happy with him, but we left Ohio to train. That's when I saw he was all muscle. He only had 8 percent body fat. We got the weight off, but the week of the fight he couldn't do nothing. After he walked up those three steps, he got into the ring and told me, 'I feel empty inside.' I just told him to do the best he could, and he did. He was just a kid struggling to figure out what's right and what's wrong.

"He gutted out a draw, and when we got back to the locker room he just said, 'You don't have to say anything. I've prayed on this.' You couldn't tell me then that experience was going to be the best thing for Shawn, but it worked out. I told him later if he wanted independence, he needed to do it right. Get your own apartment. Get your own furniture. Monitor who comes and goes. Be careful who you let in there. As a result of that decision, he moved back in with me."

That draw led some to question

'[PORTER IS] A PHYSICAL GUY WHO GETS SLOPPY AT TIMES, BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THAT WORK FOR HIM. TO DEAL WITH THAT AND TRY TO REMAIN SHARP WAS DIFFICULT. IT WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE DEALING WITH.'
– PAULIE MALIGNAGGI

Porter and father/ trainer Kenny Porter (arms up in background) have had a lot to celebrate in recent fights.

ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

whether Porter had the right stuff to reach the pinnacle of the division, but two fights later he avenged it with a one-sided decision in a rematch, a win that led to a shot at Alexander last year at Barclays Center in Brooklyn. Porter was a heavy underdog that night, the stylish Alexander expected to box him silly. Instead, a different Porter showed up from the one Diaz had faced a year earlier in California.

This Porter was fit, focused and ferocious, and by the end of the night he was also IBF welterweight champion and a hot name in a division filled with talent.

"Prior to that draw, people were looking at me like this kid had something," Porter recalled. "After that draw people turned their heads to the side. A lot of things went wrong in that match, but a lot of things went right, too. I learned how to handle things a lot differently.

"I needed to go through that. You don't want the worst to happen, but sometimes when you go through things those are the best experiences."

Actually, the best experiences were dominating first Alexander and then Paulie Malignaggi, a two-time world champion who he stopped in his last outing in four viciously one-sided rounds. It was the fight that put his name in the middle of what has become a lengthening list of top-quality welterweights, all in need of being sorted out and with only one way to do it: Fight each other.

"He had some pretty heavy hands," Malignaggi said of Porter. "He's getting stronger. You might not look at him like a heavy-handed guy, but Devon Alexander felt his punching power, and I can attest to it. I can't say he was better than I thought, because I knew he was no slouch. He's a physical guy who gets sloppy at times, but he knows how to make that work for him. To deal with that and try to remain sharp was difficult. It was something I didn't anticipate dealing with."

Porter and his father hope one day soon to have the opportunity to surprise someone like Floyd Mayweather Jr. with that power, but realize they have a mandatory first against Kell Brook, probably this summer, before they can approach Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao, for whom Porter once served as a sparring partner when Pacquiao was preparing to face Miguel Cotto.

Those are fights he would relish, but so, too, is a showdown with interim WBA champion Keith Thurman (23-0, 21 KOs), who recently made mincemeat of Diaz and is the first to point that out whenever Porter's name is mentioned.

"We're two young, undefeated welterweights who the fans want to see fight," Thurman said. "When he's ready, I'm ready. It's going to come sooner or later. I asked to fight Shawn, and his Dad said 'not now.' So I wanted to make a statement against Diaz, and I did. Shawn Porter fought him twice and didn't stop him. Amir Khan didn't stop him. I stopped him. I'm ready for any of them."

Kenny Porter would quarrel with the idea he doesn't want to see his son face Thurman. Actually, he'd prefer it, because it's the kind of fight he believes his son is ready for, the kind boxing fans crave in an era where there is nearly as much ducking outside the ring as in.

"That would be a great fight," Kenny Porter said of Thurman. "In my eyes it's a fight both guys need, but they need to build their brand [to] where that fight is being demanded. We have absolutely no control over who makes fights, but we really want to find out who's the best in the division.

"Some of these guys are not interested in that. All Keith Thurman vs. Shawn Porter does now is knock off each other.

THE MAKING OF A TITLEHOLDER

Shawn Porter has been highly regarded since his amateur days, but he only recently emerged as an elite professional. These five fights were crucial to his ascension.

ALFONSO GOMEZ

Date / location: July 28, 2012 / San Jose, Calif.
Result: UD 10 (98-92, 96-94, 97-93)
Background: Porter overcame bad cuts over both eyes (one suffered in the first round, the other in Round 9) to defeat a spirited veteran by a unanimous decision. The experience served Porter going forward.

JULIO DIAZ I

Date / location: Dec. 15, 2012 / Los Angeles
Result: Draw 10 (96-94, 95-95, 94-96)
Background: Diaz, a gritty veteran, deserves credit for fighting Porter on even terms. However, Porter's camp says he lost focus in training leading up to this fight. He evidently learned his lesson.

JULIO DIAZ II

Date / location: Sept. 12, 2013 / Las Vegas
Result: UD 10 (97-93, 98-92, 97-93)
Background: Porter gave a much better performance in the rematch with Diaz, comfortably outpointing his determined rival. The victory set up his first opportunity to fight for a world title.

DEVON ALEXANDER

Date / location: Dec. 7, 2013, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Result: UD 12 (115-113, 116-112, 116-112)
Background: Porter blossomed in the biggest fight of his life, not only outworking but also outboxing one of the better technicians in the world to win the IBF welterweight title. He had arrived.

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI

Date / location: April 19, 2014, Washington, D.C.
Result: TKO 4
Background: Porter was at his most fearsome in this fight, overwhelming the slick veteran with his speed, strength and aggression from the opening bell. The titleholder looked like a star in the making.

BRYAN STEFFY/GETTY IMAGES FOR SHOWTIME

Porter is collecting some high-profile fans. That's actor Jon Voight shaking the hand of the champion.

These guys wouldn't fight the loser because he lost and wouldn't fight the winner because he won, but we have absolutely no problem with that fight. We're not afraid to get in the ring, because we're not afraid to lose. We want that challenge.

"I think people see there's substance here. We're not two guys coming with our pants hanging off our butts. No entourage. We're not a crazy show. We don't need to bring attention to ourselves. Shawn does that when he fights."

His son feels the same way. He gave up football in part because he wanted to always carry the ball. He feels the same now in a different venue. Shawn Porter doesn't just want to fight. He wants the big fights yet understands all good things come to those who wait, although not any longer than they have to.

"I've accepted that things happen on time," Porter (24-0-1, 15 KOs) said. "Those fights are out there, but sometimes you have to be patient and handle what's in front of you. I want to unify titles. I want to be great, and to be great you have to beat great fighters, and Floyd Mayweather is a great fighter. I'm ready to take that leap forward, but I can't wait on Mayweather. I don't know if he'd take a fight with me or not, but I welcome it.

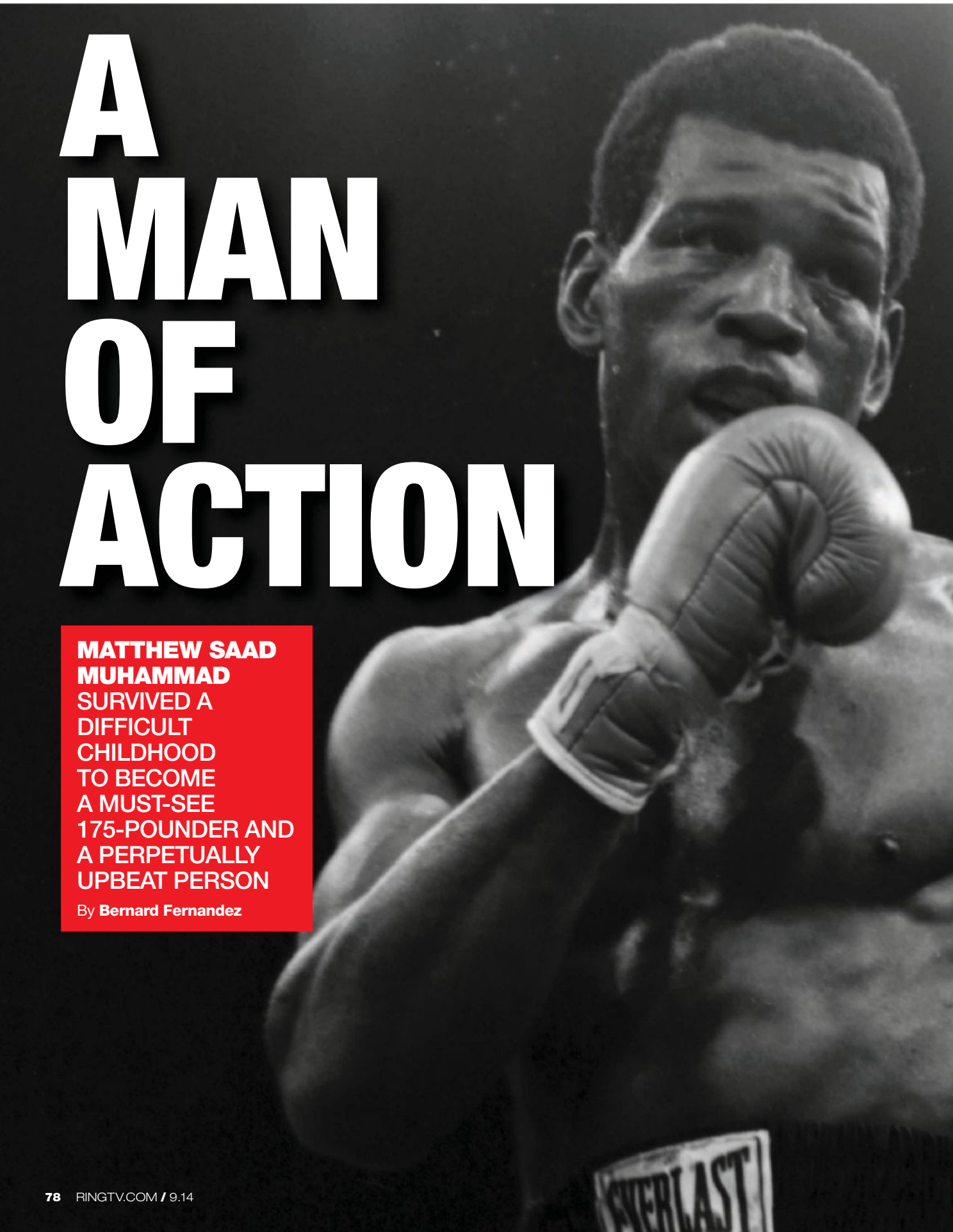
"Same with Keith. I know Keith well. I know his mindset. I know he's a fighter. He's more of a fighter than anyone I ever met. I'm looking forward to that [fight]. I always took the hard road. When I decided not to play football anymore, I took on some tough fights, but, at the end of the day, I was made for this. Clearly I made the right decision."

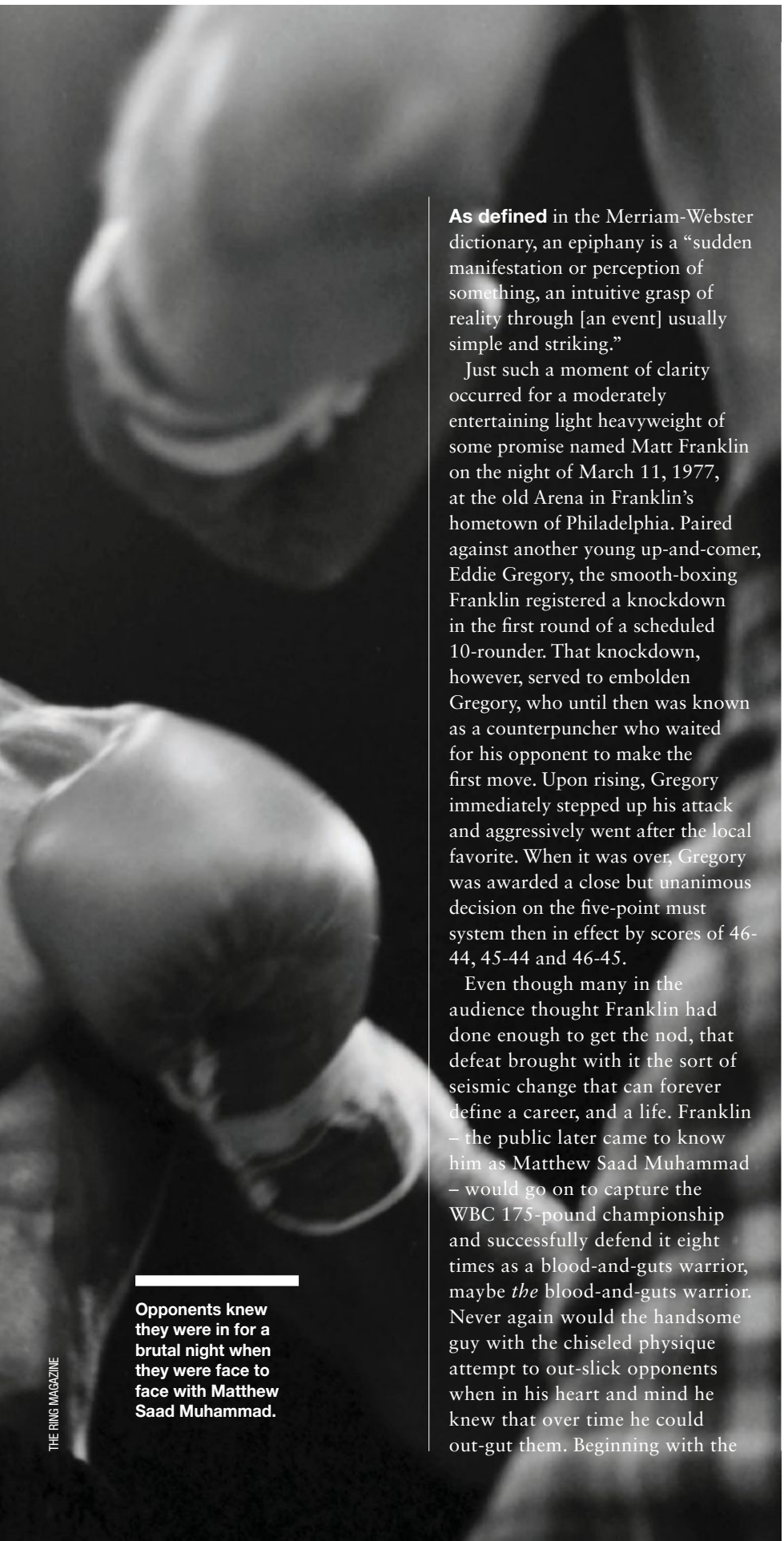
Not even Keith Thurman could argue with that. RING

A MAN OF ACTION

MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD SURVIVED A DIFFICULT CHILDHOOD TO BECOME A MUST-SEE 175-POUNDER AND A PERPETUALLY UPBEAT PERSON

By **Bernard Fernandez**





Opponents knew they were in for a brutal night when they were face to face with Matthew Saad Muhammad.

THE RING MAGAZINE

As defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, an epiphany is a "sudden manifestation or perception of something, an intuitive grasp of reality through [an event] usually simple and striking."

Just such a moment of clarity occurred for a moderately entertaining light heavyweight of some promise named Matt Franklin on the night of March 11, 1977, at the old Arena in Franklin's hometown of Philadelphia. Paired against another young up-and-comer, Eddie Gregory, the smooth-boxing Franklin registered a knockdown in the first round of a scheduled 10-rounder. That knockdown, however, served to embolden Gregory, who until then was known as a counterpuncher who waited for his opponent to make the first move. Upon rising, Gregory immediately stepped up his attack and aggressively went after the local favorite. When it was over, Gregory was awarded a close but unanimous decision on the five-point must system then in effect by scores of 46-44, 45-44 and 46-45.

Even though many in the audience thought Franklin had done enough to get the nod, that defeat brought with it the sort of seismic change that can forever define a career, and a life. Franklin – the public later came to know him as Matthew Saad Muhammad – would go on to capture the WBC 175-pound championship and successfully defend it eight times as a blood-and-guts warrior, maybe *the* blood-and-guts warrior. Never again would the handsome guy with the chiseled physique attempt to out-slick opponents when in his heart and mind he knew that over time he could out-gut them. Beginning with the fight against Gregory (who would later change his name to Eddie Mustafa Muhammad), he would be boxing's irresistible force, daring everyone to match him power for power and will for will. Some very tough customers were able to hang with the remodeled Saad Muhammad for a while, even taking him to the brink of disaster on multiple occasions, but during his abbreviated prime no one could ignore so much pain and keep firing back.

"I would say from the summer of '77 until the fall of '81, he was probably the greatest action fighter in the history of the division and probably one of the Top 10 action fighters ever," said longtime Philadelphia boxing promoter J Russell Peltz. "From the time he knocked out Marvin Johnson in their first fight (on July 26, 1977), which is still the greatest fight I ever saw, through the Jerry Martin fight (on Sept. 26, 1981), he was the most entertaining fighter you could imagine. And that was probably the strongest era in the light heavyweight division, when you consider he was there with Marvin Johnson, Michael Spinks, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Yaqui Lopez, (Billy) 'Dynamite' Douglas, Richie Kates, Jesse Burnett, Ronnie Bennett, Mike Rossman, Victor Galindez, John Conteh and James Scott. I mean, you could name 20 guys who could probably clean house today."

Saad Muhammad, who was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1998, was a true original, a shining testament to the seemingly limitless capacity of human courage, resourcefulness and endurance. But there are forces more relentless and sinister than any rival wearing padded gloves.

Saad Muhammad was 59 when he passed away in the early-morning hours of May 25 in the intensive care unit of Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philly, succumbing to an incurable neuromuscular disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

"He's been battling the illness for a while, but he took a turn for the worse recently," Mustafa Ameen, a longtime friend and associate, said of the one fight even the determined Saad Muhammad was destined to lose. "But at least he's not suffering any more. He was a good man. He had ups and downs – a lot of downs, and a lot of ups. Hopefully, he's in a better place now. I believe that he is."

As was his custom, Saad Muhammad didn't make a fuss during his sad final days. In fact, even some of those who had been closest to him during and after his boxing career were unaware of how ill he was. He never complained when his boxing skills ebbed or his estimated $4 million in ring earnings evaporated, so why should he call attention to himself or ask for sympathy on his deathbed?

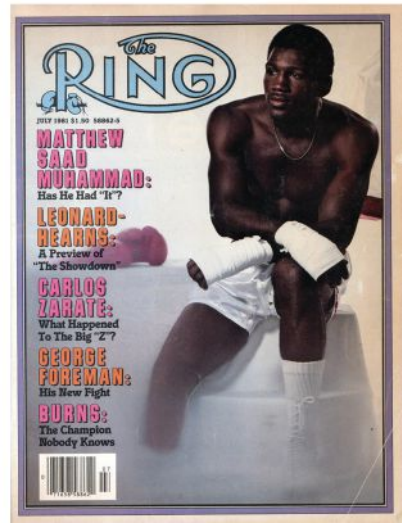
Indeed, until the end, he was an effervescent, good-natured man who was able to separate the often-brutal requirements of his profession and the challenges of life in general from his perpetually upbeat personality.

"Someone showed me a picture of Saad [two days before his death]," Peltz said. "He was on a respirator. I had no clue he was that sick. What a shame."

The image of a frail Saad Muhammad contrasts sharply to the strapping 175-pounder at his peak, in his 20s, when he plowed through that gauntlet of talented light heavyweights to win respect and become a fan favorite.

And it all started that fateful night in 1977. His opponent, the former WBA light heavyweight titleholder who is now a highly regarded trainer based in Las Vegas, recalled the bout that transformed Saad Muhammad.

"We were in the WNEW television tournament, which Don Elbaum had put together," Mustafa Muhammad recalled. "Elbaum had me and Saad fighting in the main event and (middleweights) Vito Autuofermo and 'Cyclone' Hart in the other TV bout. I outpointed Matthew. It was a terrific fight. He dropped me in the first round, but for some reason he didn't follow up on his advantage. I got up and the referee (Tommy Reid) asked me, 'Are you OK?' I said, 'Yeah. Now get out of my way. It's time for me to go to work.' Then



Saad Muhammad went into decline shortly after appearing on THE RING's cover.

I went after Matthew as hard as I could. I really believe that fight changed Matthew's whole mentality about boxing. From then on, his thinking was, 'If I get my man hurt, I got to do all I can to take him out.' And he did just that.

"Saad was Arturo Gatti before there was a Gatti, and he was like that against some of the best light heavyweights in the world. People came to Saad's fights expecting to see him get beat up early, then come roaring back to stop his man. I mean, there were guys who could keep up with Saad for 10 or 12 rounds, but for 14 or 15? Remember, in those days championship fights were 15 rounds. It was in those late rounds that Saad's conditioning – and heart – kicked in and enabled him to prevail. He'd get nailed and stagger around the ring, then come back with a furious flurry. It happened over and over."

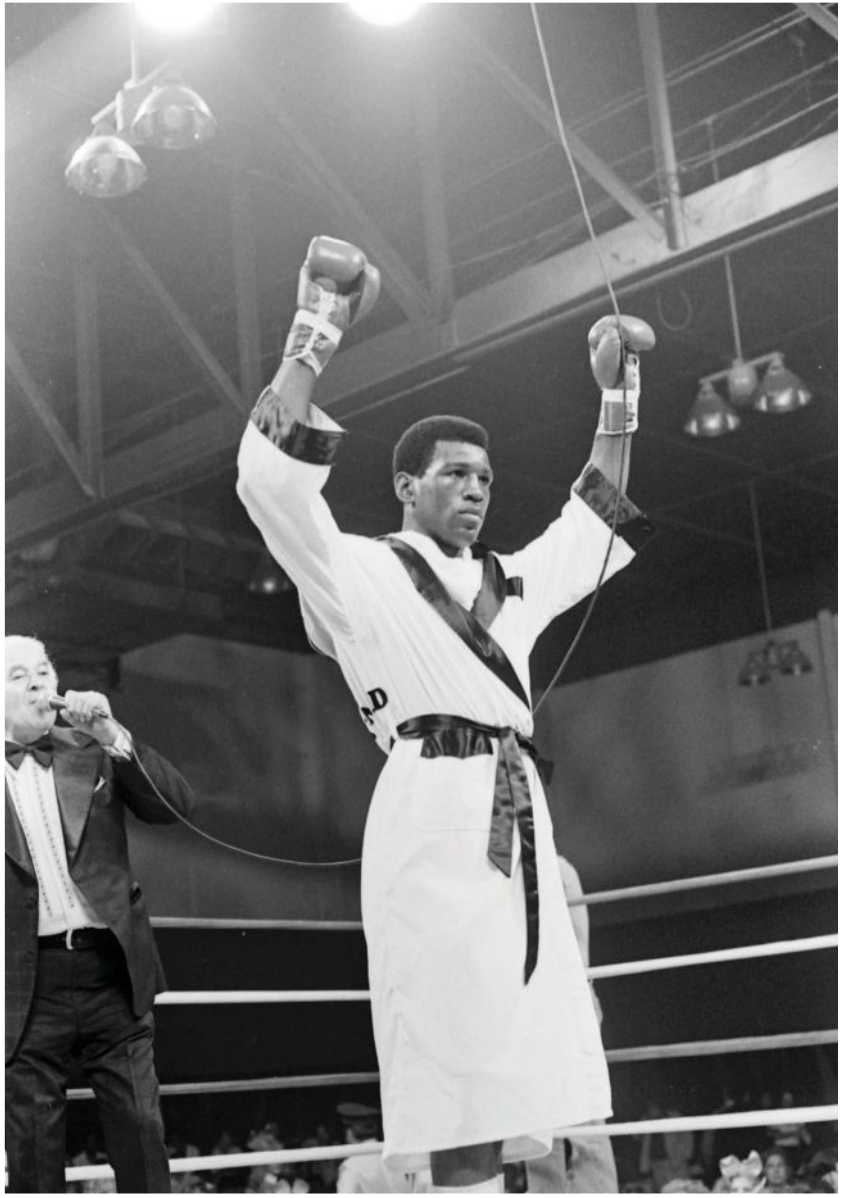
No wonder even Saad Muhammad's vanquished opponents held him in such high regard. He was no trash-talker, no preening self-promoter who felt it was necessary to denigrate someone else to hype an event. He did his job and he did it well, inflicting and absorbing punishment in heaping doses, but always he went about his business with professionalism and a sense of respect for what it took to be a fighter. Mustafa Muhammad said Saad's bouts were so routinely enthralling that other boxers, even those he had beaten, became fans.

"Billy Douglas had Saad out," Mustafa Muhammad said. "Richie Kates had Saad out. But he wasn't out. He came back and stopped both those guys, and more than a few others. He was the king of the comeback, the master of chills and thrills."

Maybe everything would have turned out differently for Saad Muhammad if he hadn't had to fight so hard at an early age to achieve some semblance of a normal life. Born Maxwell Antonio Loach, he went to live with an aunt after his mother died. When the aunt couldn't support him any longer, she told his older brother to take the then-5-year-old out for a walk and to simply lose him on the street.

A police officer found the frightened child and took him to a Catholic orphanage, where the nuns named him Matthew, for the saint, and Franklin, after the thoroughfare (the Ben Franklin Parkway) on which he was rescued. It was the beginning of an improbable journey with myriad ramifications.

There were foster homes, a turbulent youth marred by gang



The fans were always pleased when Saad Muhammad was introduced because they knew what was coming.

activity and various court-mandated stays in reformatories. During one such stint, a teacher suggested that Franklin channel all that pent-up aggression into something more positive, like boxing. That, too, was an epiphany of sorts.

He converted to Islam and became the fight game's Energizer Bunny, never giving out and never giving in. But it can be argued that his ultimate struggle was to discover who he really was and why he had been abandoned to a childhood and adolescence straight out of a Charles Dickens novel. When he offered a $10,000 reward to anyone who could provide information as to his actual identity, those stepping forward to put in a claim for the money were the aunt and older brother who had ditched him.

Little wonder Saad Muhammad became a profligate spender, financially supporting an entourage that at one point swelled to somewhere between 40 to 60 people. Was he attempting to purchase the love he had missed out on during his formative years? Not only did the champ wear a mink coat, drive a maroon Rolls-Royce Corniche convertible and lavishly furnish the big house he purchased for his first wife in a Philly suburb, he handed out expensive gifts to his hangers-on as if he were Santa Claus and every day was Christmas. Not surprisingly, most of the beneficiaries of his largesse drifted away when the money ran out.

"I was putting my people up in hotels, buying them cars," Saad Muhammad recalled some years ago. "I would be nice to other people, help other people out. Never once did I think, 'Who's going to take care of me when I'm broke?' Stupid me."

The big paydays began to dwindle after a fading Saad Muhammad lost his title to another relentless banger, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, on a 10th-round technical knockout on Dec. 19, 1981. He was 18-13-1 in his last 32 fights, 5-7-1 in his last 12, and was clearly just a shell of his former greatness as he played out the string. His final record was 49-16-3, with 35 knockouts, but at his best he was special, and he knew it.

"Toward the end I started losing my power," said Saad Muhammad, who worked as an itinerant roofer and occasional trainer of fighters following his retirement from the ring. "You can't fight the way I did unless you got something to back it up. I couldn't back it up any more."

In 2010, the twice-divorced Saad Muhammad swallowed his pride and walked into the RHD Ridge Center, Philadelphia's largest homeless shelter. But never once did he fall into the trap of feeling sorry for himself. He needed help, and he knew that, too.

"Anyone can fall down," he reasoned. "The important thing is whether you can get back up."

Mustafa Muhammad said everyone should remember the times Saad Muhammad got up more than the times he fell down. The bottom line of anyone's life shouldn't just be about figures on a balance sheet.

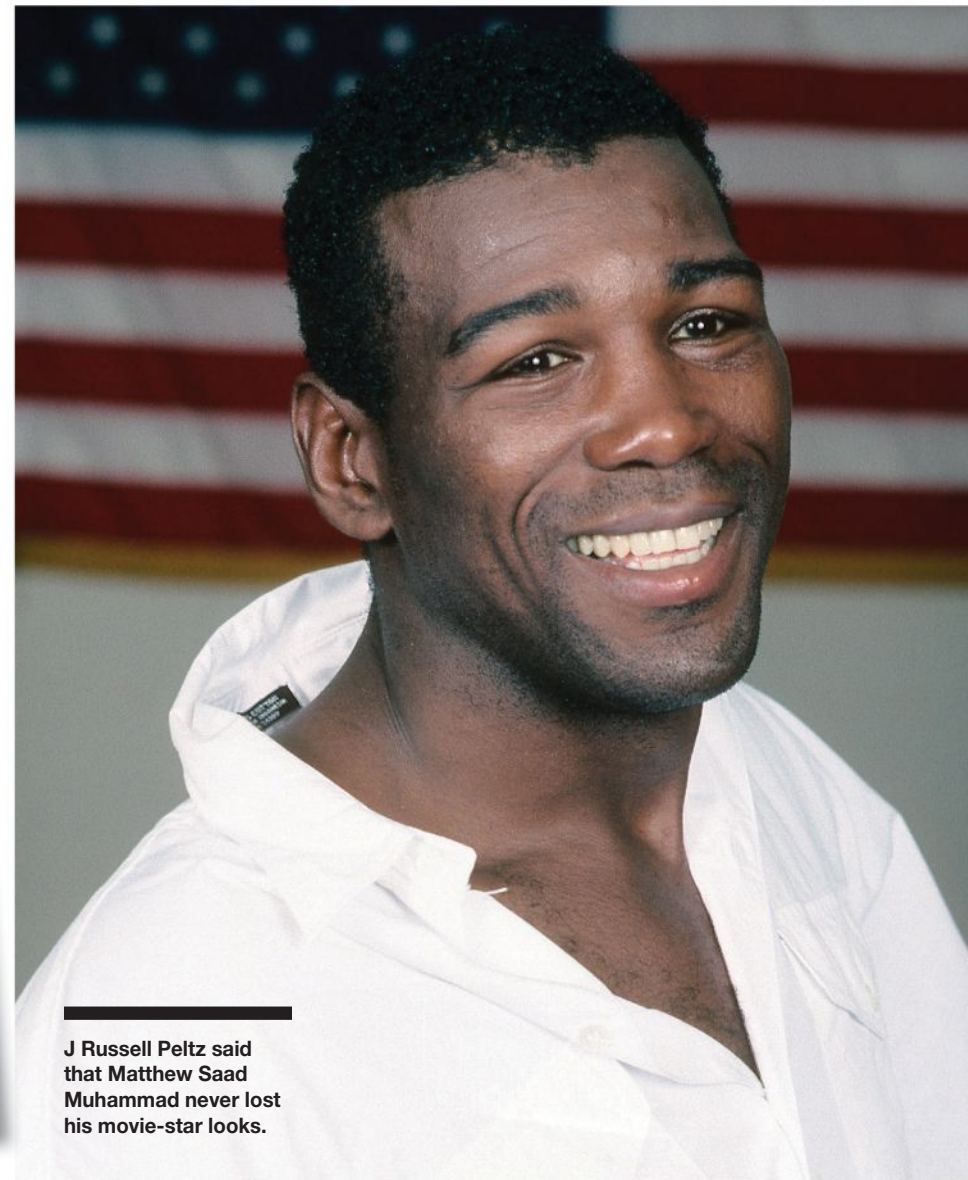
"Money never made Saad," he said. "He didn't let it rule or control him. If he had it, he had it. If he didn't, he didn't. He was always the same friendly guy with the big smile on his face, whether he was flush or broke. He lived in the moment. How many people can really say that?

SO LONG TO A FRIEND

A SPECIAL FIGHTER, A SPECIAL PERSON

By **J Russell Peltz**

Note: Promoter J Russell Peltz worked with Saad Muhammad at the peak of the light heavyweight legend's abilities.



J Russell Peltz said that Matthew Saad Muhammad never lost his movie-star looks.

I was in my car with my wife, Linda, and our grandchildren, on our way to see the Pirates play at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, when the call came in over the car-phone speaker. It was Eddie Mustafa Muhammad calling from Las Vegas to tell us that Matthew Saad Muhammad had passed away the night before.

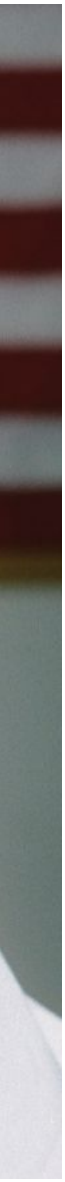
Saad Muhammad, the orphan from Philadelphia who became world champion, gave you your money's worth every time out, and he did it during the light heavyweight division's finest era. There is no greater compliment you can give an athlete.

A troubled child, Matthew spent time in the Youth Study Center as a teenager before one day wandering into Nick Belfiore's Juniper Gym in South Philadelphia. That changed his life.

The young Matthew Franklin had 20 amateur fights and won the Trenton (New Jersey) Golden Gloves in 1973. He turned pro in 1974 under the management of William "Pinny" Schafer and Pat Duffy. Schafer was head of the Bartenders Union in Philadelphia and Duffy ran amateur boxing in the Middle Atlantic area. Duffy had an underground railroad to send kids to the pros.

Matthew was nothing special despite winning his first seven fights, five by knockout. Those were wonderful days in Philadelphia. We were loaded with talent.

In the mid-1970s, the city's hottest fighter was junior lightweight Tyrone Everett, who was managed by Frank Gelb, a good friend of mine. Tyrone's brother Mike, also managed by Schafer and Duffy, wanted to join his brother in Gelb's stable. Matthew didn't want to be left behind, so a deal was worked out early in 1975 and Matthew became a throw-in, something akin to a baseball trade for future rights to an unnamed player. It was the biggest steal since



1626, when Peter Minuit bought Manhattan from the Indians for a load of cloth, beads and hatchets.

Gelb, never one to baby his fighters, sent Matthew to Trieste, Italy, where he upset future WBC light heavyweight champ Mate Parlov, and then to Stockton, California, where he beat future WBC cruiserweight champ Marvin Camel. Gelb was my kind of manager; he wanted to find out what he had.

Though Matthew lost the rematch to Camel in Missoula, Montana, Camel's hometown, and boxed to a draw the second time with Parlov in Trieste, Gelb knew what he had. In those days, fighters were not banned from television because they lost a fight here and there.

Matthew's coming out party was July 26, 1977, at The Spectrum for the vacant NABF title against another future light heavyweight champion, Marvin Johnson. I consider myself fortunate to have promoted the greatest fight I ever saw in person. It was two magnificent athletes exchanging bombs for 11 rounds. The judges had it a draw before Johnson sagged to the canvas in the 12th round. The video of the fans going bonkers at ringside remains a cherished image in my DVD collection.

More Hollywood-like fights followed at The Spectrum. Matthew got off the floor to stop Billy "Dynamite" Douglas the next time out and did the same early in 1978, when he went down on his face against Richie Kates but got up and stopped Kates two rounds later. Today, some of those fights would have been stopped with Matthew the loser.

When our son Matthew was born in October 1978, Matthew the boxer was convinced we had named him after our favorite light heavyweight. That same month, the 175-pound Matthew KO'd Yaqui Lopez at The Spectrum in their first fight.

As always in boxing, trouble was brewing. Matthew was looking to sever ties with Gelb, who claimed to have an extension. Matthew said he had been tricked into signing a blank piece of paper.

At the pre-fight press conference for the Lopez fight, Matthew introduced me to Bilal Muhammad, later to become his official manager after a series of legal battles.

After he won the WBC world title in April 1979 by again stopping Johnson, this time in Marvin's Indianapolis backyard, Matthew Franklin became Matthew Saad Muhammad. Belfiore was jettisoned from the corner, to be replaced by Sam Solomon and Adolph Ritacco. Gelb got paid for several fights, but Bilal Muhammad was running the show.

Classic fights followed, promoted mostly by Bob Arum, then Murad Muhammad. It seemed as if every one was a Fight of the Year candidate, including the rematch with Yaqui Lopez in 1980 at the Playboy Club in McAfee, New Jersey, where Saad rallied from far back to win in 14 rounds.

Saturday afternoons in Atlantic City, New Jersey, were festival-like every time Matthew defended his title, be it against John Conteh, Vonzell Johnson, Murray Sutherland or Jerry Martin. He was always trailing on points and taking a beating, often bleeding, when he would rally to win.

It came to an end in December 1981 at the Playboy Casino in Atlantic City. At the morning weigh-in for a 5 p.m. fight against Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Matthew was more than five pounds over the limit. It was inexcusable on his trainer's behalf, and Matthew spent the morning running on the beach to shed the weight. He was a shell by the time the bell rang, and Qawi battered him. Everyone waited for the late comeback, but it never materialized. He was KO'd in the 10th round. Matthew's run atop the division was over at 27 years old.

It was more than the weight issue. The hard fights and the beatings had caught up to him, and it showed in the rematch the following summer at The Spectrum when Qawi repeated, this time in six rounds.

Matthew boxed on for another 10 years, losing to fighters he would have beaten easily years earlier.

Why do fighters fight too long? They need the money. In the late 1970s, early 1980s, Matthew was making between $250,000 and $500,000 for some fights, but no one was looking out for his finances. He purchased a beautiful home in the Elkins Park section of Philadelphia, and it was decorated by one of the most expensive interior designers in the area. He did not own it for long. He had a beautiful wife; she later left him.

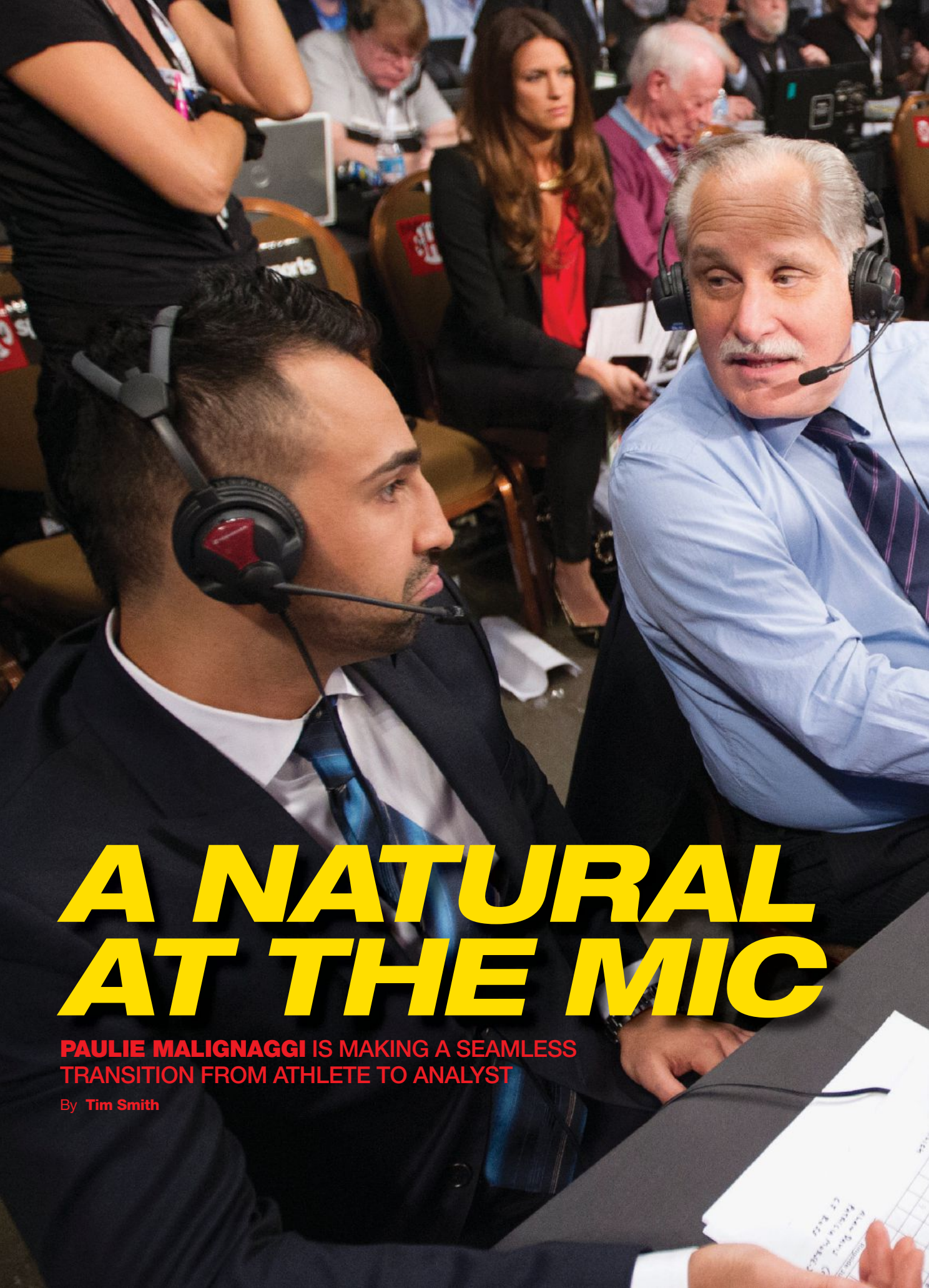
Years later, he told me that those closest to him in boxing had borrowed money from him and never paid him back.

Matthew was so broke he sold his championship belts, robes, trophies, everything he had earned in boxing, just to pay his bills. He lived in the basement of a friend's home for a brief time around 1999. Neil Gelb, one of Frank Gelb's sons, got Matthew a job with the city, but he disappeared after 10 days "and I did not see him for close to 10 years after that," Gelb said. Matthew also spent time in a homeless shelter.

Through all his down times, Matthew remained friendly and outgoing, and he never lost his movie-star looks. At my Hall of Fame induction in 2004, seconds before my speech, he got up from his seat on the stage to applaud and salute me. When Linda and I were walking in downtown Philadelphia about three years ago, he was riding in a car along Sansom Street, and he jumped out to say hello and hug us.

The news last week that he had been suffering from Lou Gehrig's Disease and had a stroke was a stunner. But nothing compared to Eddie's phone call.

THE RING MAGAZINE



A NATURAL AT THE MIC

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI IS MAKING A SEAMLESS TRANSITION FROM ATHLETE TO ANALYST

By **Tim Smith**

When Paulie Malignaggi started out in boxing, some of his best work was done outside of the ring, talking. He talked to build himself up. He talked his way into matches. He talked to television executives, reporters, other boxers. Anyone who would listen, Malignaggi talked to them.

All that talking paid off. And it still is paying off.

In the last two years, while still active in the ring, Malignaggi has become one of the best boxing broadcasters on television. He does color commentary for *Showtime Championship Boxing*, *Golden Boy Live!* and Sky TV in England.

This past May, Malignaggi won the Boxing Writers Association of America's Sam Taub Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

Malignaggi has the insight of a fighter and the ability to articulate his thoughts.

COURTESY OF SHOWTIME; INSET: ELSA/GOLDEN BOY/GOLDEN BOY VIA GETTY IMAGES

BORN TO BROADCAST

"I think Paulie is the best boxer out there doing this now. He's our first-team guy," said David N. Dinkins, Showtime senior vice president and executive producer of Sports and Event Programming. "He can be one of the best former fighters who has ever done this."

That "former" tag is getting closer for Malignaggi, who suffered a punishing loss to WBA welterweight titleholder Shawn Porter in his last fight. He was knocked out in the fourth round and took the worst beating of his professional career. Two months after the fight, Malignaggi is still suffering from post-concussion symptoms, primarily nausea and headaches.

"If I don't fully recover from the symptoms, I don't see a reason to keep risking it," Malignaggi said. "If I didn't have the commentating job, it'd be different. I'd be fighting for my pride. If I'm going to be putting my health at risk, I'm not fighting any more. At the end of the summer I'll be able to tell more clearly."

Until then, you won't be able to see Malignaggi inside the ring, but he'll have a huge presence at ringside. With Showtime, Fox Sports 1 and Sky Sports, Malignaggi could do nearly two dozen boxing broadcasts this year. Since working the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero match on May 5, 2012, Malignaggi has done all but four *Showtime Championship Boxing* broadcasts. That is because he has been in the ring for three – against Pablo Cano, Adrien Broner and Porter – and he missed another after the loss to Porter because of his condition.

The leap from boxer to broadcaster is impressive when you consider that Malignaggi didn't learn to speak English until he was in the first grade. He was born in Brooklyn, but when he was one month old moved to Syracuse, Sicily. The family returned to Brooklyn six years later and Malignaggi spoke only Italian, but said he quickly learned to speak English once he entered school.

Malignaggi (here fighting Zab Judah) is a good fighter. Most believe he has become an even better broadcaster.

ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

The "Magic Man" has picked up the nuances of live sports broadcasting just as seamlessly.

"I'll say something, and he'll expand on that point in a way that is shocking to me. He takes it to another level. He's added something hugely beneficial for the viewer," said Al Bernstein, Showtime's boxing analyst. "Paulie's personality is such that he has a way of harnessing his enthusiasm, and that makes it very appealing for TV."

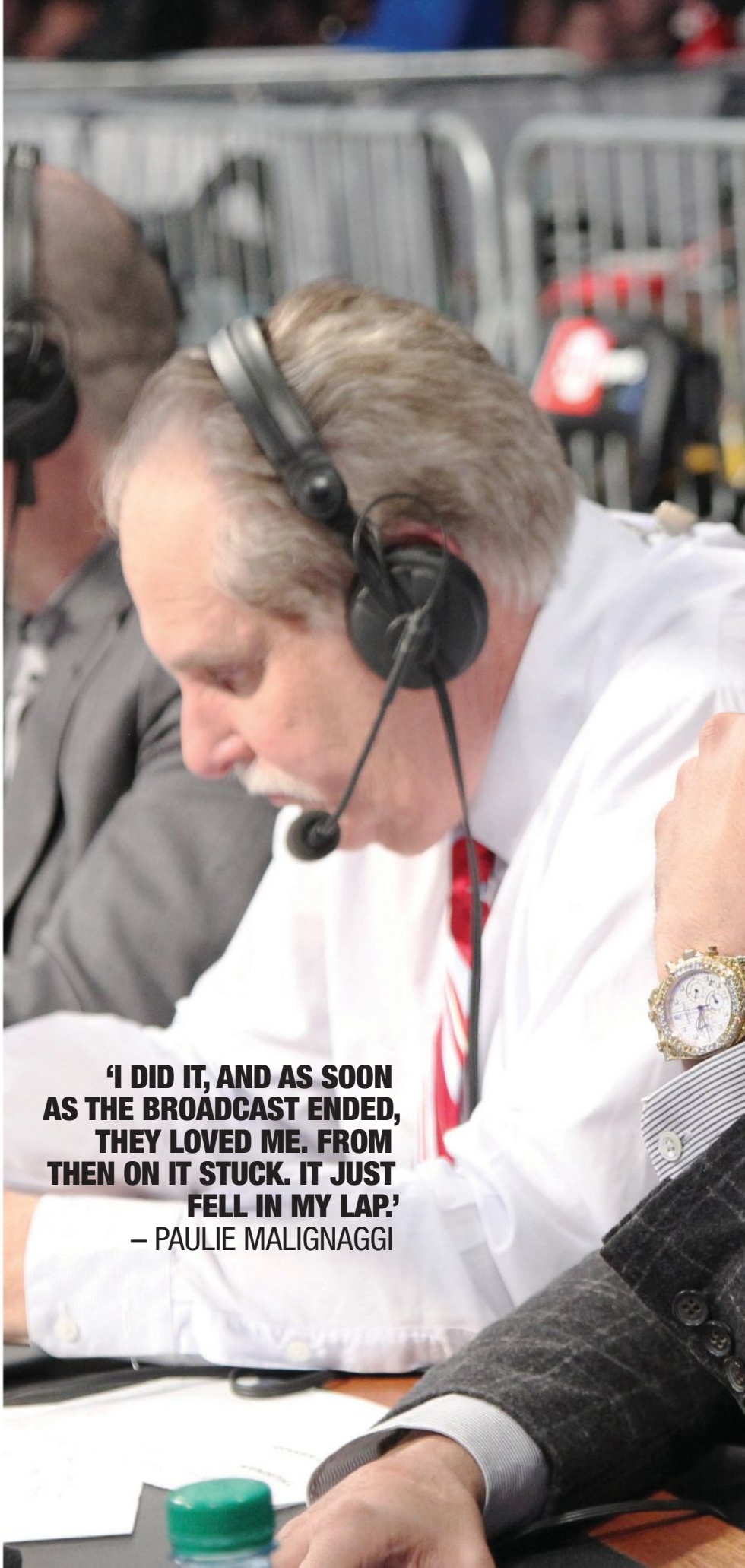
Malignaggi doesn't have any formal training in broadcasting. He used to sit around watching boxing matches with his family and friends and would carry on a running commentary on what was happening in the ring. Now he's getting paid to do it, and he's having just as much fun as he had sitting on his couch at home with his friends.

"I'm a talker, and I'm good listener when I have to be a good listener. I know boxing, but I don't know TV," Malignaggi said. "I'm working with guys who are good broadcasters. I kind of picked up on things by being around. Make your points, but give other guys a chance to make their point."

Malignaggi had a very short audition to get his job with Showtime. He replaced Antonio Tarver, a former light heavyweight champion who lost his job with Showtime after testing positive for the anabolic steroid drostanolone following a match against Lateef Kayode in 2012.

Showtime decided to rotate different boxers on their broadcast to find a replacement. They called Malignaggi first. He was in Los Angeles training for a match against Pablo Cano. They wanted him to work the broadcast of the Saul Alvarez-Josesito Lopez match in Las Vegas. After the fight, the auditions were over.

"I did it, and as soon as the broadcast ended, they loved me," Malignaggi said. "From then on it stuck. It just fell in my lap."



'I DID IT, AND AS SOON AS THE BROADCAST ENDED, THEY LOVED ME. FROM THEN ON IT STUCK. IT JUST FELL IN MY LAP.'
– PAULIE MALIGNAGGI

COURTESY OF SHOWTIME

Malignaggi sometimes brings the scars of battle to his work for Showtime.

Dinkins said Malignaggi does have a gift for gab, but it is his ability to relate ring tactics to the audience in an entertaining manner that separates him from other athlete-broadcasters.

"It's a big difference between being glib when you're talking about yourself or your opponent or answering questions you've heard quite a number of times and being able to convey information in a spontaneous and entertaining way," Dinkins said.

Malignaggi said he has a simple, honest philosophy when he is working a broadcast.

"I try to make my commentary as positive as possible. Boxing gets a bad reputation already," he said. "If I'm watching a dull fight, I don't need to tell the audience at home that point. I try to focus on the sweet science of it. I try to point out the different things that are going on. Boxing matches are little battles that can win a war."

Dinkins said Malignaggi is an excellent boxing broadcaster because he's a thoughtful boxing fan who does his homework.

"He's knowledgeable about the fighters and good about dissecting the tactics," Dinkins said. "Paulie is gifted, but he doesn't rely upon his intellectual gifts. He puts the work in as well. I'm really pleasantly surprised at how he's fit into our ensemble. You've got a play-by-play guy, an analyst with the broad view and an athlete who is able to put together the tactics in the ring."

Malignaggi's big decision will be whether to return to that ring himself or to concentrate on being a boxing broadcaster full-time. It is a choice he will have to make very soon.

"If my continuing to box is going to jeopardize [the broadcasting career] I'm not going to take a chance," Malignaggi said. "I definitely like doing the commentary, and I don't want to do anything to risk that." RING

Doug Fischer wrote that Miguel Cotto "pretty much faced them all."

BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

EXCERPTS FROM THE **RINGTV.COM** EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN

By **Doug Fischer**

Since 2001, RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialogue – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbags."

Beginning this year, the editors of THE RING collect excerpts from Fischer's online column from the previous month to appear in the printed edition. The following excerpts are from the June 9, 13 and 16 editions of the Monday and Friday mailbag.

TOBY, from Helston, England, pointed out to Fischer that winning THE RING and WBC middleweight titles from Sergio Martinez is the first time Miguel Cotto has been recognized as a legitimate champion in a specific division. He also found it odd that the Puerto Rican star has never been considered the best in any division he has competed in or rated as the No. 1 fighter.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: Good point about the world titles that Cotto won before taking Martinez's RING and WBC middleweight belts. Three of those four belts (the WBO 140-pound title he won by stopping Kelson Pinto, the WBA welterweight title he won by stopping Carlos Quintana and the

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

WBO 147-pound title he won by stopping Michael Jennings) were all vacant titles. The WBA 154-pound belt he won was taken from Yuri Foreman.

This is the first time Cotto has held the lineal title and been recognized by THE RING as a champion of a particular division.

Regarding his not being considered the "best in any division he has competed in," if by that you mean he wasn't universally recognized as "the champ" at 140, 147 and 154, you are correct. However, at different times during his career he was THE RING's No. 1-rated junior welterweight, welterweight and junior middleweight contender.

Anyway, Cotto campaigned at 140 and 147 when there were many formidable contenders and titleholders in both divisions, and apart from Paul Williams (and maybe Kermit Cintron), he pretty much faced them all.

CHRIS, from Chile, told Fischer that he was embarrassed that he picked Martinez, who he should have known was too damaged to use his size against Cotto, to beat the Puerto Rican star. He also asked what Cotto does after scoring the biggest victory of his career.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: You are not alone in picking Martinez. I favored the defending middleweight champ, as did the oddsmakers, who made Cotto a 2-to-1 underdog. I didn't favor Martinez because of his size. I favored him because of his unorthodox and mobile southpaw style and because of his tremendous heart and fighting spirit.

The problem with that reasoning is that it was contingent upon Martinez being at least somewhat healthy going into this fight (at least 75 percent). In other words, he had to have his legs under him in order to stick and move effectively (with his usual off-beat rhythm) and punch with any sort of authority.

We'll never know for sure (because Martinez is too much of a man and a professional to make excuses) but I doubt he was even 50 percent going into the Cotto fight. However, I was willing to give the "old man" the benefit of the doubt during the buildup to this fight because of the valor he always displayed in the ring and due to the honesty he had always showed outside of it.

Anyway, like you (and more than a few other fans and pundits), I was wrong about the time away from the ring (and from hard training) allowing his knees to recuperate enough for him box or fight effectively. And I must follow that statement with the fact that I'm beyond happy to give full credit to Cotto for pushing a faded elite veteran over that cliff. Cotto looked his sharpest since his first year at 147 pounds (December 2006 through 2007). His technique was on point. His legs were strong. His speed and reflexes were good. And, obviously, his power was there.

Where does he go from here? Anywhere he wants. The top two logical/business choices are a rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr. or a showdown with Canelo Alvarez. However, Mayweather's contract with Showtime (plus his vow never to do business with Top Rank) places a pretty thick wall between those two sides coming together, and at press time the redheaded Mexican star had yet to get by Erislandy Lara – which wasn't a given.

Bob Arum and Todd duBoef said they'd like Cotto to return in December. If Canelo wins on July 12 and Oscar De La Hoya is serious about ending the Cold War (which would have to include mending Golden Boy's relationship with HBO), it seems as if Cotto-Canelo is a natural for that date. However, Arum (and Cotto) might want to let that potential superfight "marinate" until next May (Cinco De Mayo weekend) or next June (Puerto Rican parade weekend in New York City). In which case, I can see Cotto simply taking on one of Top Rank's middleweights, such as Russian Olympian Matt Korobov (in New York). Who knows? Bob might be bold enough to offer up 4-0 (four knockouts) Japanese Olympic gold medalist Ryota Murata and take the show to Macau.

I think Canelo is definitely in Cotto's future if the young gun can avoid setbacks in the next year, but in the meantime, we can expect Top Rank to keep Cotto busy with non-threats. (FYI, Jermain Taylor is rated No. 5 in the WBC for some reason; don't put it past any promoter or commission to allow the totally faded and undeserving former champ to challenge Cotto. It would probably be the only time Arum would do business with an Al Haymon client.)

NAOKI, from Reno, Nevada, told Fischer that while he was impressed with Chris Algieri's upset split-decision victory over Ruslan Provodnikov, he doesn't believe the newly crowned WBO 140-pound titleholder "outboxed" the punishing Russian pressure fighter, as many fans have asserted on social media. "Outboxing" is what Bernard Hopkins did to Felix Trinidad and Kelly Pavlik, he said, and Algieri didn't dominate or completely neutralize Provodnikov with his skills.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: I saw the fight the way you did, Naoki. Although Algieri boxed his ass off, I don't think he beat Provodnikov with sheer skill and technique. What we saw on Saturday was not a "boxing clinic." It was a tremendous performance by Algieri, who proved to be world class with his effort, but I think his heart and his greater work rate is what allowed him to edge the fight on two scorecards. He outboxed Provodnikov in spots in most of the rounds but not well enough or consistently enough to keep Provodnikov from getting in close and putting heavy hands on him at some point in every round of the fight. I would say that Algieri outworked and outmaneuvered Provodnikov in a competitive fight.

RANDY CABALLERO

TIM BRADLEY SAYS 'THE SKY IS THE LIMIT' FOR HIS PROTEGE

By **Keith Idec**

Randy Caballero is the mandatory challenger for IBF 118-pound titleholder Paul Butler.

THE ESSENTIALS
Age: 23
Weight class: Bantamweight
Height: 5 feet 6 inches
Stance: Orthodox
Hometown: Coachella, Calif.
Record: 21-0 (13 KOs)
Biggest strengths: Pedigree. Won more than 150 amateur fights, including a U.S. National Championship and a bronze medal at the World Championships in Turkey in 2008 ★ fearless ★ went to Japan and knocked out a favored fighter to earn a title shot ★ a smart, skilled technician who can win fights in various ways.
Biggest question marks: Doesn't possess one-punch knockout power ★ has beaten just one legitimate bantamweight contender (Kohei Oba).

The last time a talented, determined fighter from California's Coachella Valley supposedly wasn't good enough or strong enough, Tim Bradley bucked the odds and became one of the best boxers in the world.

The former junior welterweight and welterweight world champion expects Randy Caballero to accomplish similar things. The unbeaten bantamweight from Coachella is in a position nearly identical to the spot occupied by Bradley in May 2008, when he traveled to England and outboxed

heavily favored Junior Witter to win the WBC 140-pound crown.

Caballero is the mandatory challenger for IBF 118-pound title-holder Paul Butler (16-0, 8 KOs), who defeated fellow Brit Stuart Hall (16-3-2, 7 KOs) by a split decision June 7 to win the title. He was awaiting word on their title fight at the time this issue went to press. Bradley will be among the most interested observers whenever and wherever Caballero and Butler box.

"Randy Caballero will be the next bantamweight champion of the world," Bradley said. "No doubt about it. I've known Randy since he was a little boy, coming up through the JOs (Junior Olympics) and everything. This kid really can fight. He's very talented, very hungry and determined. That's what you need to be able to do it at this elite level. You need to be able to fight when you have to fight and also be able to box

"He's a good, smart boxer. He has a high boxing IQ. The sky is the limit for him."

Caballero, 23, captivated foreign fans halfway around the world when he won his last fight. Forced to travel to Kobe, Japan, for an IBF elimination match, Caballero (21-0, 13 KOs) dominated Japanese veteran Kohei Oba (35-3-1, 14 KOs) on April 4 to secure his title shot. That eighth-round technical knockout was by far the most impressive triumph of Caballero's four-year pro career, a win Caballero needed to legitimately make the tough transition from prospect to contender.

"I don't think a lot of people would've thought I would stop him the way I did," said Caballero, who's represented by Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions. "But my training camp was more than great, and I was hungry to take that fight. A lot of people doubted I could knock him out. When I actually did, I think my name blew up in the boxing world."

His convincing victory validated all the work Caballero and his father/trainer, Marcos, have done at the Coachella Valley Boxing Club since Randy was 8 years old. Marcos Caballero's boxing career was limited to amateur fights, but the second-eldest of his three sons cannot wait to help the native Nicaraguan enjoy the euphoria of winning a world title.

"My dad has always had that dream since he was little, to win a world title for his country," Caballero said. "That's going to mean a lot to me, to be able to win that world title with him. That's going to be amazing. Without having him by my side, I don't think I'd be able to do it. We're going to make it happen. And once we get that title there's going to be no stopping us at all."

Bradley believes Caballero will soon become one of boxing's most popular fighters in the lower weight classes. He also anticipates Caballero threatening his reign as the most accomplished fighter from the Coachella Valley.

"The difference between being a champion and being elite is having the mental toughness to deal with adversity, beating different styles to always come out on top," Bradley said. "Randy shows that he has that toughness, that he has that edge that a lot of guys don't. … I'm looking for somebody from here to surpass me, and Randy Caballero is going to have a chance to win one of those world championships and possibly even pass me up some day." RING

Keith Idec covers boxing for *The Record*, of Woodland Park, N.J. He can be reached on Twitter @ Idecboxing.

JEFF BOTTARI/GOLDEN BOY/GOLDEN BOY

3 MORE TO WATCH

FRANK GALARZA
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT
(14-0-2, 9 KOs)

Though older than most prospects at his level, the rugged 28-year-old garnered attention by stopping previously unbeaten John Thompson (14-1, 5 KOs) in the second round of a ShoBox bout on Jan. 17. The Brooklyn native, who is promoted by Lou DiBella, most recently defeated Canadian prospect Sebastien Bouchard (8-1, 2 KOs) by a unanimous decision in an eight-rounder on May 16.

JOSE RAMIREZ
LIGHTWEIGHT
(10-0, 8 KOs)

This 2012 Olympian from California is off to a strong start in his pro career, both in and out of the ring. Ramirez, 22, promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank Inc., already has a large fan base, which has generated the kind of buzz most prospects at this stage of their careers cannot create. He has yet to fight above a six-rounder.

FELIX VERDEJO
LIGHTWEIGHT
(13-0, 10 KOs)

Arum has touted the powerful Puerto Rican prospect as his company's next Miguel Cotto. His fighting style and charisma more resemble his idol, Felix Trinidad, but we won't learn how well equipped the 21-year-old puncher actually is to meet those lofty expectations until Verdejo starts facing reasonably threatening opposition.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

THE RISK OF CONTRACTING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN BOXING IS LOW, BUT THERE'S ROOM FOR IMPROVED SAFETY

By **Scott LaFee**

Dr. Paul Wallace said boxing officials must stay on top of health risks, including infectious diseases.

A natural question when watching two bloody, sweaty fighters exchange punches at close quarters might be: Is there a significant danger of contracting infectious diseases? The answer is: No.

Infectious diseases like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the cause of AIDS, or hepatitis B or C, pose real and serious threats to human health – just not in the boxing ring, not if bouts are governed by science, reason and responsible policies designed to protect all concerned.

This is especially true about HIV.

For the vast majority of professionally sanctioned boxing matches, the risk of contracting HIV in the ring is almost vanishingly small. In fact, there are no documented cases of any professional athlete contracting HIV through a sports activity.

Most states and boxing jurisdictions mandate blood screenings for the presence of HIV particles and antibodies that indicate a Hep B or C infection. The blood tests are valid for varying lengths of time, from as little as one month in California to as long as a year in Colorado. The majority of regulations fall somewhere in between, with blood test results remaining valid for three or six months.

How do these time periods jibe with actual disease progressions? The answer is complex and not entirely satisfying. HIV has a well-documented sequence: Within two to four weeks after infection, many (but not all) persons develop severe, flu-like symptoms. This is because huge amounts of the virus are replicating in the body and the immune system is responding with its standard repertoire of tools,

JOE KLAMAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

which includes inflammation.

Eventually, the immune response reduces the viral load to a lower, stable level and the disease moves into "clinical latency," a period during which the virus persists but doesn't produce significant symptoms. This stage typically lasts for years.

It is followed (without treatment) by the eventual emergence of full-blown AIDS. The body's immune system has been severely damaged and weakened. Patients become increasingly vulnerable to infections and infection-related cancers. Life expectancy at this point is measured in one to three years.

At all stages of HIV infection, there is a risk of transmitting the virus to others (most notably during the first acute stage when viral loads are high), but those risks depend greatly upon the mode of transmission.

HIV does not live or grow in human perspiration, which eliminates flying sweat as a viral threat. Saliva doesn't contain enough HIV to effectively infect unless it's thoroughly mixed with blood and there is significant, direct exposure.

In terms of athletic risk, HIV is fundamentally a blood borne pathogen, though even in a sport as bloody as boxing, actual infection risk is quite low. Consider that the average risk of HIV infection after a needle stick or cut exposure to HIV-infected blood is 0.3 percent, or about 1 in 300, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That means 99.7 percent of such exposures to contaminated blood do not lead to infection.

The risk is even lower for other modes of transmission: Exposure of the eye, nose or mouth to HIV-infected blood is estimated to be, on average, 0.1 percent (1 in a 1,000). Exposure of skin to HIV-infected blood is less than 0.1 percent. A small amount of infected blood briefly in contact on intact skin probably poses no risk at all.

More worrisome are hepatitis B and C, which are easily transmitted along the same pathways as HIV and are contagious for one or more weeks before symptoms appear. Hepatitis is treatable. It's even preventable with vaccination. Yet it also kills more Americans each year than HIV.

Given that the validity of blood test results varies between states and sanctioning bodies, does Hep B and C infection risk arouse greater concerns? Are the current rules sufficient?

Dr. Paul Wallace, chief ringside physician for the California State Athletic Commission and chairman of its Medical Advisory Committee, said most states and commissions follow accepted public health protocols, though he believes a broad mandate of a new blood test every six months would be optimum.

"Every six months surpasses what the recommendations say, but it would probably be best for public safety," he said.

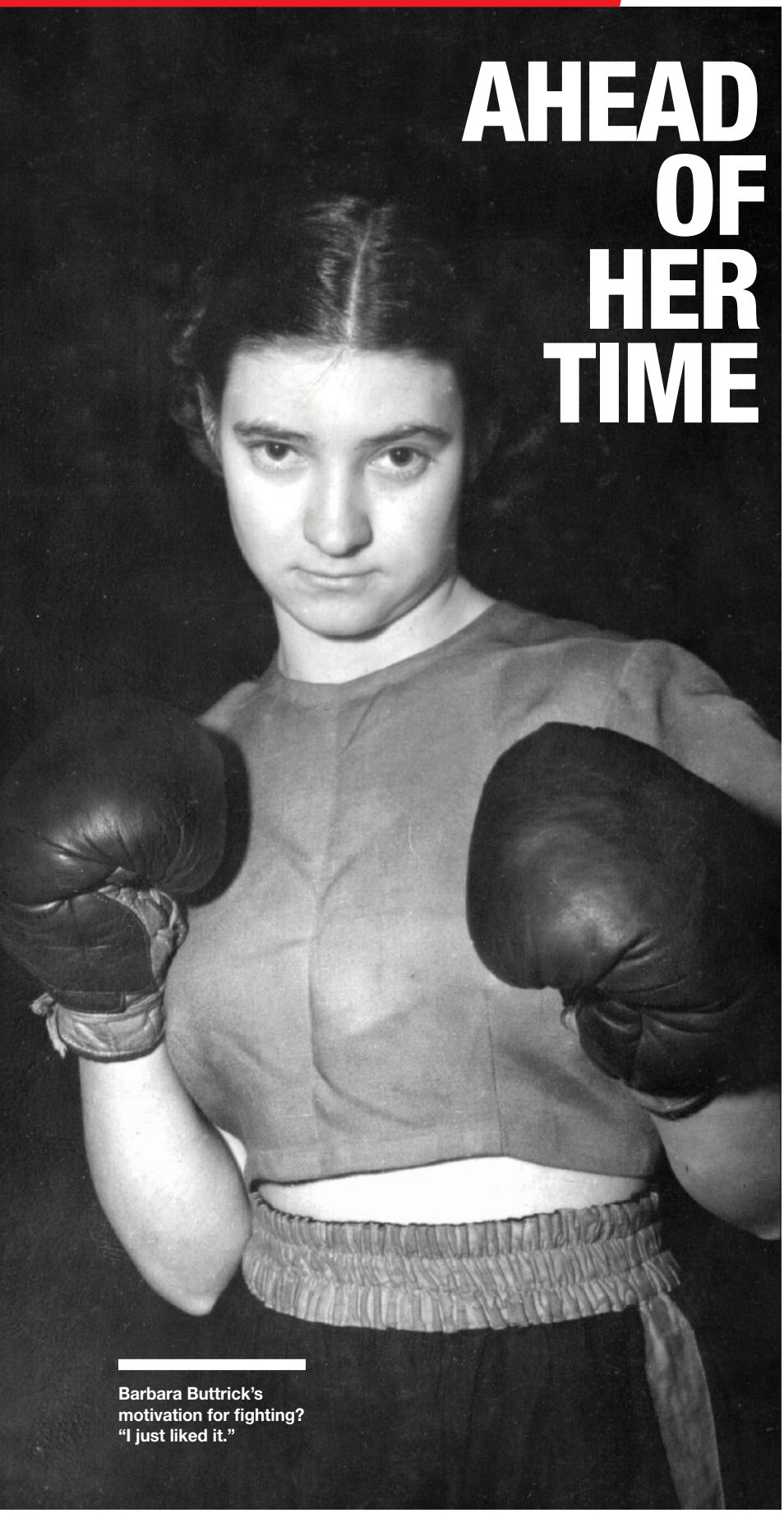
More concerning to Wallace is the "fair amount of fraud all around" related to testing. It's too easy to fake test results, he said. "I'd like to see every commission or regulatory body have some sort of administrator who follows up on test results, who verifies them in labs."

He'd also like to see a greater emphasis upon training and continued education of ringside physicians. The situation is better these days, said Wallace, a veteran ringside doctor with more than 26 years of experience, but the modern job is much more complicated and demanding. Boxers are bigger, faster, stronger and the risk of physical harm never greater.

"There's an absolute necessity for anyone involved with ringside medicine to have some kind of continuing education, to learn about new conditions, health risks, know what to look for," he said.

"Some states mandate training every year, others don't. Ringside doctors have to take their jobs seriously. It's not a casual, moonlighting experience. The careers and lives of boxers rely upon us."

AHEAD OF HER TIME



Barbara Buttrick's motivation for fighting? "I just liked it."

ALLSPORT HULTON/ARCHIVE

WOMEN'S BOXING PIONEER **BARBARA BUTTRICK** PAVED THE WAY FOR OTHERS

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

At 84 years young, Barbara Buttrick's fighting spirit has never left her.

"I feel that if I was in my prime, I would still be the best in my weight class," she told THE RING recently. "I never felt concerned about getting in the ring with an opponent, and I think I would actually be better because I would have better training. So if I could have that today, I feel I'd still be on top."

That type of confidence and fearlessness shouldn't be surprising considering that when Buttrick first laced on the gloves in 1948, the teenager from Yorkshire, England, was one of the only women competing in the sport – and certainly the most high-profile.

But she didn't fight for money or glory; her reasons were a lot purer than that.

"I just liked it," said "The Mighty Atom of the Ring," who was part of the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame's inaugural class earlier this year. "Before I thought about boxing, I used to have a lot of boxers that were popular at the time pinned up on my bedroom wall. I was the one who said, 'Why not?'"

Buttrick learned from a glance at a newspaper clipping featuring British boxer Polly Burns that women were fighting in her home country, which motivated her to follow the path of most resistance.

"If you see that somebody else did it, it gives you encouragement," she said. "It's hard to be the first one, thinking that nobody ever did this before, and you're going out on a limb

Buttrick recently met 2012 Olympic gold medalist Nicole Adams of England at Canino's Karate and Boxing Studio in Dania Beach, Fla.

to do it."

Not surprisingly, this new obsession didn't sit well with her parents. Buttrick was undeterred, though: She fought for the first time on Derby Day 1949 in Epsom Downs.

In those days, many fighters got their starts in boxing booths as part of traveling carnivals and fairs. And when Buttrick – who fought four times that first day – couldn't find a female opponent to square off with, she would fight men.

"A lot of the fighters just accepted me as one of them," she said. "And in the gyms as well, they got used to me being around."

One who didn't was former light heavyweight champion Freddie Mills, who wrote in his *Daily Mirror* column: "The only boxers I know are men, I prefer to keep it that way. So come off it, Barbara, the fight game is one field of sport that can safely do without your presence."

Again, Buttrick was undeterred. And in 2010, the *Mirror* issued an apology to her for printing Mills' comments.

In between, the 4-foot-11, 98-pound battler fought in England, moved to the United States to get more fights, and in 1957 was licensed in Texas. She went on to fight and beat Phyllis Kugler in San Antonio to become the first women's boxing world champion.

All this, despite being outweighed practically every time she fought.

"I didn't find weight to be much of a problem because I was used to giving that away," said Buttrick. "Even a flyweight or bantamweight was quite a bit heavier than I was. But a tall person was the hardest. The only fight I lost was to (fellow IWBHF inductee) Jo-Ann (Hagen) and she was seven inches taller. She was sticking out her left hand and moving, and I couldn't catch her."

When she did catch her opponents, though, Buttrick made sure to make it count.

"I could punch for my size," she said. "That's how I came to win fights with the bigger, heavier girls, because when I hit them, they felt it. I used to snap my punches in there hard, and they wouldn't be so keen to come after me after they felt a good, hard left hand in their face. They'd be more careful."

In 1960, Buttrick retired with a reported 30-1-1 record and went on to raise a family. Now living in Florida, she is a proud mother of two daughters with five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Her unofficial baby is still boxing. She has remained involved in the sport over the years, first as a ringside photographer and then as the founder of the Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF).

"I never thought it would get as popular as it did," she said of women's boxing. "But I was really pleased when they got into the Olympics. It was a good thing, because it made it more acceptable."

And something that would never have been possible without Barbara Buttrick paving the way.

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS
Norway • 25-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. JELENA MRDJENOVICH
Canada • 32-9-1 (16 KOS)
Featherweight

3. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP
Argentina • 27-1 (12 KOs),
Flyweight

4. JESSICA CHAVEZ
Mexico • 20-3-3 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

5. AVA KNIGHT
U.S. • 12-2-3 (5 KOs)
Junior flyweight

6. DIANA PRAZAK
Australia • 13-2 (9 KOs)
Junior lightweight

7. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS
Argentina • 19-1 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

8. MARCELA ELIANA ACUNA
Argentina • 41-6-1 (18 KOs)
Junior featherweight

9. DELFINE PERSOON
Belgium • 29-1 (13 KOs)
Lightweight

10. MELISSA HERNANDEZ
U.S. • 19-5-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

Through fights of June 15, 2014

AIBA

PAIN AND GAIN

U.S. MIDDLEWEIGHT **MARTHA FABELA** HAS FOUND SUCCESS BY NEVER GIVING UP

By Joseph Santoliquito

The sweat-drenched T-shirts and shorts. The aching muscles and burning chest. The tender hands. At 9 years old, who needs all that? Martha Fabela used to ask herself that each time she'd hit the gym when she was a budding fighter, a tiny ball of energy who felt there were better ways to fill weekday afternoons than inside a stuffy, smelly boxing gym. Especially when you're the only girl in there.

Now even Olympic gold medalist and professional star Andre Ward wants to meet the 18-year-old middleweight.

"I've heard so many great things about her and how good she is. I can't wait to meet her," said Ward, who calls King's Gym in East Oakland, California, home, as does Fabela.

Fabela will join 11 other U.S. fighters at the 2014 Youth World Olympics from Aug. 16 to Aug. 28 in Nanjing, China, which is expected to welcome more than 600 athletes from more than 100 nations. Many of the Americans could represent their country at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

That certainly is the aim of Fabela, who has an 11-1 amateur record and no longer has to be cajoled into training.

"Ever since I was young, I would go to school, come back, go to the gym, go home, do homework,

Martha Fabela (on the previous page, left) defeated Quynh Diem Luu in the opening round of the Youth World Boxing Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. Fabela (above, far right) ultimately won a bronze medal.

shower, and it would start all over again the next day," said Fabela, laughing. "That was my life. I would never really complain too much, at first. But I really couldn't stand it. What young kid at 9 wants to be working out? I don't think anyone that age wants to train.

"I just got used to it. My father would take me all of the time, and it's something I really grew to love. I was always scared, though, because I started sparring girls who were way older and way bigger than me."

Hard lessons came in bloody-nosed doses.

Fabela's ring epiphany arrived when she was 12. She was paired with a 19-year-old fighter who caught Fabela with everything. Hooks, uppercuts, crosses, Fabela didn't know what to do. Her nose bled, her eyes swelled and teared. But something happened that, six years later, Fabela still recalls: She went back round after round, getting off her stool to take one beating after another.

"Not too long [after the massacre] I went to another gym where all these girls were meeting to spar, and that same girl was there," Fabela said. "She didn't want to spar with me this time. I reminded her that I was that girl she beat up when I was 12 years old. She just remembered me coming back again and again. But because of experiences like that, it's why I learned not give up and to keep coming back. It's why I'm not that afraid anymore."

Fabela had fought in only one international fight before she reached the semifinal round of the 2014 Youth World Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April. She lost a 3-0 decision to Australia's Caitlin Parker to earn a bronze medal and a berth in the Youth Olympics, which takes the top three finishers.

Fabela hopes to use that experience in Nanjing and then set her sights on Brazil, although at least one obstacle stands in her way. And it's a big one: 2012 Olympic gold medalist Claressa Shields, who happens to fight in the same weight class.

Shields will probably stay at 155 pounds, and the next weight class down is 132, a weight Fabela couldn't make.

"I fought Parker with a sprained left shoulder and was fighting with one hand, but I pushed myself," said Fabela, who was injured sparring during the tournament in April. "I can't wait to fight her again. I think I would have won the gold in Bulgaria if I had two healthy shoulders.

"And I know Claressa is there, but we'll see what comes up. I'm taking it a step at a time."

The U.S. team: The following fighters, in addition to Fabela, will represent the U.S. in Nanjing: light flyweight Nico Hernandez (Wichita, Kansas), flyweight Shakur Stevenson (Newark, N.J.), flyweight Caitlin Orosco (Anaheim, Calif.), bantamweight Carlos Balderas (Santa Maria, Calif.), lightweight Isidro Ochoa (Fresno, Calif.), lightweight Jajaira Gonzalez (Glendora, Calif.), light welterweight Jonathan Navarro (Los Angeles), welterweight Javier Estrada (Palmdale, Calif.), middleweight Charles Conwell (Cleveland), light heavyweight Sharif Rahman (Las Vegas), and super heavyweight Darmani Rock (Philadelphia).

RINGSIDE REPORTS

BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

ADONIS STEVENSON UD 12 ANDRZEJ FONFARA

Date: May 24
Site: Bell Centre, Montreal
Division: Light heavyweight
Weights: Stevenson 173.5 pounds, Fonfara 174.5
Ring rating (going into fight): Stevenson, Champion; Fonfara, No. 10
Network: Showtime

★ Escalating expectations are a sure sign of Adonis Stevenson's emergence. They can never be beaten. They can only be fulfilled, and Stevenson fell short in a victory over Andrzej Fonfara, a little-known Pole who knocked him down for the first time and left questions about whether the light heavyweight nicknamed "Superman" is just another Clark Kent.

Stevenson's true test, if it happens, might be a fight with 49-year-old Bernard Hopkins, whose long career has included a variety of nicknames and costumes. From "Executioner" to "B-Hop" to "The Alien," however, there's never been any disguise for what Hopkins does. He has more ways to win than he has nicknames. He identifies a weakness and uses it to break down an opponent, psychologically and then physically.

If Fonfara exposed one, it's safe to assume Hopkins has already studied and re-studied the video.

The good news for Stevenson, a Haitian living in Quebec, is that he displayed resilience not seen in his march to the top of the 175-pound division. Before Fonfara, Stevenson had scored 10 successive knockouts. He looked unstoppable. Yeah, even super. Against Fonfara, however, he had to show poise

RING light heavyweight champ Adonis Stevenson (right) was fortunate to emerge victorious against Andrzej Fonfara.

COURTESY OF SHOWTIME

and courage to get up from a right hand that knocked him down and bloodied his nose in the ninth round.

"I wasn't worried," Stevenson (24-1, 20 KOs) told ringside reporters after his defense of the RING and World Boxing Council titles. "I was moving, clinching, being smart, but I wasn't worrying about it."

In getting up, Stevenson assured himself of victory on the scorecards (116-109, 115-110 and 115-110). In the early going, it looked as if Fonfara (25-3, 15 KOs) would be just another pin to fall in the face of Stevenson's bowling ball-like power. Stevenson dropped him with a right hand in the first round. The southpaw champ dropped Fonfara again in the fifth with a body shot despite what he later said was an injured left hand. But Fonfara, with his right eye bloodied in the third, would not go away.

"I proved he is not Superman," Fonfara said. "He went down."

After watching the fight, WBO titleholder Sergey Kovalev said Stevenson, THE RING's reigning Fighter of the Year, would not have gotten up had the punch come from him. Many thought Stevenson-Kovalev would happen in the spring. It didn't. Stevenson signed with adviser Al Haymon and left HBO for Showtime.

"I lost the opportunity to knock him out," Kovalev told RingTV.com.

It's hard to know whether Kovalev will ever get that chance. His promoter, Kathy Duva of Main Events, has filed a lawsuit, alleging that a deal was already in place when Stevenson jumped to Haymon and Showtime.

"Stevenson is not the best fighter of the year ... he's just a piece of s--t who found [his] title in the ring, which Chad Dawson lost," said Kovalev, a fearsome Russian with a record of 24-0-1 (22 KOs). "Fonfara showed us who is who."

Might have shown Hopkins, too.

MIGUEL COTTO TKO 10 SERGIO MARTINEZ

Date: June 7, 2014
Site: Madison Square Garden, New York
Division: Middleweight
Weights: Cotto 155 pounds, Martinez 158.8
Ring rating (going into fight): Cotto, No. 3 (junior middleweight); Martinez, Champion
Network: HBO

★ It was a confrontation that represented one of those unique forks in time. On one side, there was a further claim on an enduring legacy. On the other, there was the real prospect of retirement. The stakes were about as clear as they can get.

Cotto seized the moment quickly and ruthlessly, almost as though he instinctively knew it belonged to him. Martinez fought on a surgically repaired right knee that appeared to limit his mobility and compromise his future.

There are different opinions about how big a factor Martinez's scarred knee was. Martinez advisor Sampson Lewkowicz said it wasn't. Cornerman Pablo Sarmiento said it was. Six seconds after the bell sounded to begin the 10th, Sarmiento ended it by telling Martinez "the knee is not working."

Truth is, nothing was working for Martinez (51-3-2, 28 KOs) and everything was for Cotto (39-4, 32 KOs), who has been as tough and stubborn as he has been sensational and resourceful throughout his varied career. Cotto, the first Puerto Rican to win a major title in four weight classes, has never been afraid of change. He is always evolving.

He doesn't re-invent himself so much as he finds new ways to win. Forget about whether Martinez's knee undercuts the brilliance of Cotto's performance. That's just part of the game, and Cotto is as good at targeting weakness as anyone.

He's also pretty good at finding motivation. Whether his next bout is a rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr. or against the Canelo Alvarez-Erislandy Lara winner, he'll have that chip in his war chest when inevitable questions about his victory over Martinez arise.

Miguel Cotto (left) spent a lot of time looking down on Sergio Martinez.

Cotto's career says a lot. Above all, it tells us he is a stubborn student, disciplined and focused on detail. Against Martinez, he put together nine rounds that were nothing if not thorough. First, there was the swift, first-round assault that knocked Martinez down three times and left plenty of doubt about damage to both knees. After the initial blitz, Cotto, who relied on a devastating left hand, settled into a style that employed agile footwork and a defensive posture that displayed an awareness of Martinez's proven jab and his own scar tissue, which leaves him vulnerable to further cuts.

Cotto was bold.

Then, cautious.

"I never went wild even after I knocked him down three times," said Cotto, who scored a fourth knockdown in the ninth while adhering to the tactical blueprint drawn up by trainer Freddie Roach. "This was a 12-round fight, not a one-round fight."

In some ways, the pace and tenor of Cotto's victory was a snapshot of his career. His legacy includes a 2008 loss to Antonio Margarito, who was busted for altered handwraps in his very next fight, casting doubt on the Cotto win. Cotto got beyond the anger, recovered and became a different fighter. He was more tactical in the second bout with Margarito. He also targeted Margarito's damaged eye, finally forcing a dramatic ninth-round stoppage.

It was just one chapter in the Cotto story, one fight in an evolution that continued against Martinez.

NAOKI FUKUDA

CHRIS ALGIERI SD 12 RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

Date: June 14
Site: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Algieri 140 pounds, Provodnikov 139.8
Ring rating (going into fight): Provodnikov, No. 2; Algieri not rated
Network: HBO

★ The unexpected happened to Ruslan Provodnikov, whose swift emergence had already taken him to the doorstep of stardom. He got beat. It was controversial. Split decisions always are.

Chris Algieri, who has more academic degrees on his résumé than boxing titles, wasn't given a chance. Forget winning. Nobody thought the Long Island junior welterweight with a master's degree in clinical nutrition would get past the sixth round. But he did, surviving two first-round knockdowns and a damaged right eye for an unlikely victory and the WBO's version of the 140-pound title.

The split cards only emphasized the controversy. Two favored Algieri (20-0, 8 KOs) with a 114-112 score on each. The third went to Provodnikov (23-3, 16 KOs) by a wide margin, 117-109.

"I congratulate Chris Algieri and I have nothing more to say," said Provodnikov, who sounded like he had a mouthful of raw moose liver, his traditional snack.

The loss could have knocked Provodnikov out of a big payday with Manny Pacquiao, his former sparring partner. However, there also was talk about a rematch. The question is when. Algieri promoter Joe DeGuardia told the *New York Daily News* that there was language in the contract that called for another fight.

DeGuardia called it "a provision." According to him, Algieri, who seemed to confuse Provodnikov with his elusiveness, has to give the Russian a rematch over his next three bouts. Provodnikov would have to OK the fight.

The question, DeGuardia said, is when Algieri exercises that option.

"That's the way I read it," he told the newspaper.

Algieri already has been mentioned as a possibility for Pacquiao, whose next bout is tentatively scheduled for Macau, China. Pacquiao, of course, means big money.

Against Provodnikov, Algieri collected a career-high $100,000, according to a contract filed with the New York State Athletic Commission. Half of that presumably went to pay off his student loan, which he said totals $50,000.

Whether it's Pacquaio or an immediate Provodnikov rematch, Algieri figures to make very good money in his next outing. HBO's Boxing After Dark telecast of his stunner over Provodnikov attracted an audience of 1,046,000 viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. That's the highest rating this year for the series. It also makes it the third-highest rating for a cable-produced boxing card in 2014. Translation: There's a market for a rematch.

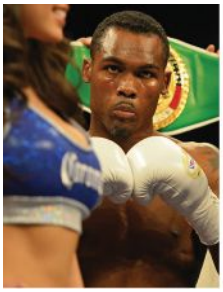
Controversy over the scorecards could also help sell a second fight. Algieri, who has talked about going to med school, knows all about the debate. Many in the press section had Provodnikov winning.

"I don't think it was anything unfair," Algieri said in a round of media interviews during the week after the bout. "I think there was a little hype around Ruslan's power and that people think that everything he lands is a power punch.

"After the first four rounds, he took a lot of the power off his punches because he was missing so much. Later in the fight, his power was completely different than it was in the first four rounds."

After the fight, however, nobody was more different than Algieri, suddenly a factor in the junior welterweight division after acing a test that nobody thought he could survive.

Chris Algieri will tell you that a swollen eye was a small price to pay for a world title.



NO. 9 JERMELL CHARLO UD 12 CHARLIE OTA

May 24, Bell Centre, Montreal (Showtime)

★ Jermell Charlo survived, but his bid to become a player in the junior middleweight division's championship mix is still an ongoing quest.

Charlo exhibited competent boxing skill – hand speed and footwork – for a unanimous decision (115-111, 118-109 and 118-109) over Charlie Ota, but the victory left doubt about his power.

Charlo (24-0, 11 KOs) was employing an effective jab followed by a quick hook to repeatedly score against Ota (24-2-1, 16 KOs) when he was floored by a right hand in the third round.

The Japan-based New Yorker was unable to capitalize, however. Charlo remained elusive and his jab, consistent and accurate, kept Ota from getting within range of another knockdown. But Charlo never countered with power of his own, and that might prove critical in a division that includes Floyd Mayweather Jr., Miguel Cotto and Canelo Alvarez.

NO. 2 ALEXANDER POVETKIN KO 7 MANUEL CHARR

May 30, Moscow

★ Manuel Charr looked forward to Moscow. He said the Russian city knew him.

It does.

Charr, a heavyweight from Germany, left Moscow in May the same way he did nearly two years ago. Badly beaten.

Charr's Moscow record fell to 0-2 with a brutal seventh-stoppage delivered by Alexander Povetkin (27-1, 19 KOs), who came back from an October loss to Wladimir Klitschko by knocking the German flat on his back with a scary four-punch combination. After two lefts and two rights, Charr's head was resting on top of a ringside camera when he awakened to hear he had been counted out at 1:09 of the round.

Charr (26-2, 15 KOs) lost to Vitali Klitschko, now retired and the new mayor of Kiev, by a fourth-round stoppage in September of 2012.

NO. 5 NICHOLAS WALTERS KO 5 VIC DARCHINYAN

May 31, Macau, China

★ Nicolas Walters showed why he's called "The Axe Man." He has scary skill.

Walters (24-0, 20 KOs), an emerging featherweight from Jamaica, chopped down what was left of Vic Darchinyan with a fifth-round knockout of the former 112- and 115-pound champion. Darchinyan (39-7-1, 28 KOs) is 38 and looked every bit of it against the 28-year-old Walters, who won by knocking him down once in the second and twice in the fifth.

After the first knockdown, Darchinyan went for broke in trying to score an upset over the bigger Walters. He began walking into punches, one after another, until a left hook from Walters ended it at 2:22 of the fifth. It put Darchinyan flat on his back and unable to get up from what might be his last time on the canvas.

NO. 7 NONITO DONAIRE TD 5 NO. 4 SIMPIWE VETYEKA

May 31, Macau, China (HBO tape delay)

★ Nonito Donaire got the win he wanted and needed. But it was messy and left questions that only can be answered in a rematch.

Donaire (33-2, 21 KOs) got the WBA's featherweight title from South African Simpiwe Vetyeka (26-3, 16 KOs) after the bout was stopped in the opening second of the fifth because of a cut caused by an accidental headbutt late in the first. Referee Luis Pabon ended it after Donaire said he couldn't see because of blood in his left eye. That's when the fight went to the scorecards. Through five rounds, Donaire led 49-46 on all three.

"He deserves a rematch," said Donaire, who scored a fourth-round knockdown.

Donaire promoter Bob Arum said he'd get it.

"Donaire said he didn't like to win the title that way," Arum said.

NO. 2 CARLOS CUADRAS TD 8 NO. 3 SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI

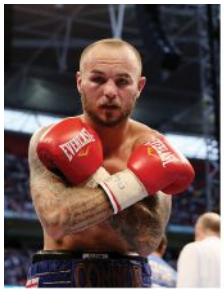
May 31, Mexico City (Televisa)

★ Carlos Cuadras suffered a bloody cut. It'll turn into a nasty scar, a happy memory of his first major title.

Cuadras (30-0, 24 KOs) won the WBC's 115-pound championship with a technical decision over Srisaket Sor Rungvisai (27-4-1, 25 KOs), a Thai fighter who had won 26 straight bouts and held the title for a year.

"It was tough, but we managed to win," Cuadras told Mexican reporters.

That win came after referee Jay Nady abruptly stopped the fight in the eighth because of a cut above Cuadras' left eye. The wide gash was a result of a headbutt in the fifth. By then, Cuadras had already taken control with a quicker pace and faster hands. When the fight went to the scorecards, he led on all three – 78-73, 77-74 and 77-75.



NO. 6 KEVIN MITCHELL TKO 11 GHISLAIN MADUMA

May 31, Wembley Stadium, London (Sky Sports)

★ Kevin Mitchell's comeback from a 2012 loss to Ricky Burns was a mixed blessing. He won. He lost.

In a fifth straight victory since Burns stopped him in 2012, Mitchell (38-2, 28 KOs) scored an 11th round TKO of Ghislain Maduma (16-1, 10 KOs). But he lost a shot at a major title on the scale. He would have been the mandatory challenger to IBF lightweight champion Miguel Vazquez if he had not been 1 ½ pounds over the 135-pound limit.

It's not clear whether Mitchell's failure to make weight is a signal he'll move to junior welter. Against Maduma in the early going he looked sluggish. He gained momentum late, flooring the Canadian twice in the eleventh. When Maduma stumbled after he got up from the second knockdown, Phil Edwards stopped it at 2:56 of the round amid boos from a crowd of 80,000.

NO. 8 JAMES DEGALE TKO 4 BRANDON GONZALES

May 31, Wembley Stadium, London (Sky Sports)

★ James DeGale didn't waste much time. In the ring he was expeditious, scoring a fourth-round stoppage of Brandon Gonzales. Outside of the ring, he quickly went straight to the issue of a shot at the IBF's super middleweight title.

That means Carl Froch, who followed DeGale's victory with a sensational stoppage of George Groves in front of a World Cup-like crowd of 80,000 at Wembley.

"I've always said I'm a nightmare for Carl Froch," DeGale (19-1, 13 KOs), a 2008 Olympic gold medalist, told U.K. reporters after a clubbing left led to a TKO of Gonzales (18-1-1, 10 KOs) at 2:38 of the fourth. "My style is all wrong for him. I'd beat him easy."

But DeGale might have to wait on that possibility. Froch is in no rush.

"DeGale," Froch said, "has to earn his stripes."

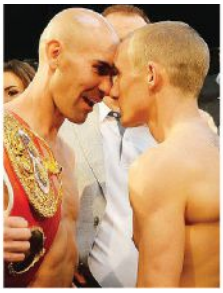
MIGUEL ROMAN TKO 9 DANIEL PONCE DE LEON

June 7, Ciudad Cuauhtemoc, Mexico

★ Daniel Ponce de Leon has the same surname as an explorer who searched for the Fountain of Youth. He never found it. If Daniel Ponce de Leon did, it ran dry against Miguel Roman.

Roman scored a sixth-round knockdown en route to a ninth-round stoppage of Ponce de Leon (45-7, 35 KOs), who told Mexican reporters afterward that he will retire. If he doesn't change his mind, it was the end of a good career that included victories over Jhonny Gonzalez and Gerry Penalosa.

But signs of the end were there. Ponce de Leon, who turned 34 on July 27, lost for the third time in four fights, all by stoppage. The damage was evident against the 28-year-old Roman (45-11, 35 KOs), who finished him with a succession of blows at 1:50 of the ninth.



PAUL BUTLER SD 12 STUART HALL

June 7, Newcastle, England (Box Nation)

★ It was a fight that left fans asking for more. They'll probably get it. A rematch looked to be inevitable in the wake of Paul Butler's split decision over Stuart Hall for the IBF bantamweight title.

"He gave me a shot, so why not give him a rematch?" Butler told ringside reporters.

Why not, indeed.

Butler (16-0, 8 KOs) and Hall (16-3-2, 7 KOs) waged a back-and-forth battle for 12 rounds, each tough to judge. In the end, the nod went to the 25-year-old Butler, who won on two of the cards, 115-113 and 117-111. On the third, Hall got the edge, 115-113.

It looked as if the 34-year-old Hall was getting stronger in the late rounds. But Butler's speed throughout the bout allowed him to score just enough to claim a victory before they do it again.

NO. 5 DEMETRIUS ANDRADE TKO 7 BRIAN ROSE

June 14, Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. (HBO)

★ Demetrius Andrade had no doubt. Not about Brian Rose. And not about where he stands in boxing's hierarchy.

"The best in the world," Andrade (21-0, 14 KOs) said of himself in comments to ringside reporters after scoring knockdowns in the first and third rounds en route to defending his junior middleweight title by seventh-round stoppage. Rose (25-2-1, 7 KOs) saw his winning streak end at 11 fights.

Andrade's bold claim includes you-know-who.

"I believe that I can beat Floyd Mayweather," said Andrade, who scored his first knockdown with a left hand, the second with a right hand and a TKO at 1:19 of the seventh with a succession of both hands. "There's nobody out there who has a jab like me. There's nobody out there who is as fast as me and who is going to slip and slide and look as good against Floyd Mayweather."

CHARLO: PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES; WALTERS: ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; DONAIRE: CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK; CUADROS: PEPE RODRIGUEZ/WBC; MITCHELL/DEGALE: SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES; BUTLER: ACTION IMAGES; ANDRADE: NAOKI FUKUDA

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH FIGHTS OF JUNE 15, 2014 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Charles Martin KO 1 Rafael Pedro
Francesco Pianeta KO 1 Mickael Vieira
Alexander Povetkin KO 7 Manuel Charr
Herve Hubeaux UD 10 Tibor Balogh
Marcin Rekowski TKO 7 Albert Sosnowski
Kali Meehan KO 1 Michael Sprott
Carlos Takam UD 12 Tony Thompson
David Price UD 10 Yaroslav Zavorotnyi
Erkan Teper TKO 6 Newfel Ouatah

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Dmitry Kudryashov KO 7 Ivica Bacurin
Mark Flanagan SD 10 Daniel Ammann
Rakhim Chakhkiev UD 12 Santander Silgado
Engin Karakaplan UD 10 Jean Marc Monrose
Firat Arslan UD 8 Tamas Bajzath
Ovill McKenzie TKO 2 Jon-Lewis Dickinson
Olanrewaju Durodola KO 2 Max Heyman

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Adonis Stevenson UD 12 Andrzej Fonfara
Eleider Alvarez UD 10 Alexander Johnson
Konni Konrad D 12 Mehdi Amar
Juergen Braehmer UD 12 Roberto Bolonti
Enrico Koelling UD 12 Patrick Bois
Steve Franjic TKO 5 Andrew Gardiner
Jeff Page Jr. KO 7 Dominique Alexander
Sean Monaghan UD 10 Elvir Muriqi

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Schiller Hyppolite KO 1 Rafael Pintos
(F) Nikki Adler TKO 8 Gifty Amanua Ankrah
Carl Froch TKO 8 George Groves
James DeGale TKO 4 Brandon Gonzales
Tyron Zeuge TKO 9 Armand Cullhaj
Kelvin Young MD 10 Francis Tchoffo

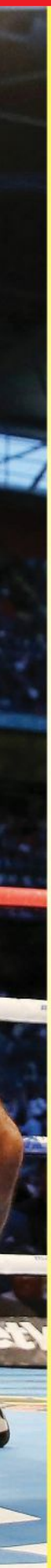
MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Ryota Murata KO 6 Jesus Nerio
Willie Monroe Jr. UD 10 Brandon Adams
David Lemieux KO 3 Fernando Guerrero
Tony Harrison TKO 1 Bronco McKart
Sam Soliman UD 12 Felix Sturm
Sergio Mora TKO 5 Samuel Rogers
Dmitry Chudinov UD 12 Patrick Nielsen
Hugo Centeno Jr. UD 10 Gerardo Ibarra
Terrell Gausha UD 10 James Winchester
Marcos Reyes UD 10 Octavio Castro
Miguel Cotto TKO 10 Sergio Martinez
Willie Nelson TKO 1 Darryl Cunningham

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Kanat Islam TKO 3 Francisco Cordero
Marcello Matano TKO 8 Domenico Salvemini
Luciano Cuello UD 12 Martin Fidel Rios

James DeGale (right) stopped Brandon Gonzales on the Carl Froch-George Groves card to become the mandatory challenger for Froch's IBF super middleweight title.



SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

Jermell Charlo UD 12 Charlie Ota
Julian Williams KO 8 Michael Medina
Besar Nimani KO 1 Mike Miranda
Oleksandr Spyrko TKO 1 Gyula Vajda
Francisco Santana UD 10 Eddie Gomez
Yudel Jhonson UD 10 Norberto Gonzalez
Denis Douglin UD 10 Charles Whittaker
Andy Lee KO 5 John Jackson
Javier Maciel MD 10 Jorge Melendez
Glen Tapia TKO 1 Keenan Collins
Demetrius Andrade TKO 7 Brian Rose

WELTERWEIGHTS

Lukasz Maciec MD 10 Lanardo Tyner
Charlie Navarro KO 9 Alberto Mosquera
(F) Cecilia Braekhus UD 10 Jessica Balogun
Fariz Mammadov TKO 5 Matthias Pelk
(F) Noni Tenge MD 10 Oxandia Castillo

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Chad Bennett TKO 6 Tony Fernandez
Juan Manuel Witt KO 2 Darli Pires
Ali Funeka KO 4 Mzolisi Yoyo
Hank Lundy KO 2 Gerardo Cuevas
Cosme Rivera KO 9 Ty Barnett
(F) Ana Laura Esteche D 10 Svetlana Kulakova
Bradley Saunders KO 1 Ville Piispanen
Humberto Soto UD 12 Wilfrido Buelvas
Chris Algieri SD 12 Ruslan Provodnikov

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Petr Petrov TKO 8 Fernando Carcamo
Nery Saguilan SD 10 Jairo Lopez
Al Sabaupan TKO 8 Sadiki Momba
(F) Maria Maderna TKO 7 Angela Marciales
Marcelino Lopez MD 10 Sergio Escobar
Mlamli Madikane TKO 6 Xolisani Ndongeni
Kevin Mitchell TKO 11 Ghislain Maduma
Adam Dingsdale W 10 Floyd Moore
William Silva UD 12 Pablo Martin Barboza
Emiliano Marsili TKO 6 Benoit Manno
Dierry Jean TKO 8 Mario Perez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Stephen Smith TKO 8 Mauricio Munoz
Gary Sykes TKO 10 Jon Kays
Daiki Kaneko TKO 4 Shogo Ishikawa
Javier Fortuna UD 10 Juan Antonio Rodriguez
Tevin Farmer UD 10 Emanuel Gonzalez
Samir Ziani UD 10 Yoann Portailler
Miguel Roman TKO 9 Daniel Ponce De Leon
Rikki Naito UD 10 Kyohei Tamakoshi

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Josh Warrington UD 12 Martin Lindsay
Jhonny Gonzalez TD 10 Clive Atwell
Rocky Juarez UD 12 Rene Alvarado
Nonito Donaire TD 5 Simpiwe Vetyeka
Nicholas Walters KO 5 Vic Darchinyan
Evgeny Gradovich UD 12 Alexander Miskirtchian
Mark Melligen TKO 4 Petchsamuthr Duanaaymukdahan
Gottlieb Ndokosho TKO 4 Mohammed Metualy
Marvin Sonsona SD 10 Wilfredo Vazquez Jr.
Jorge Arce TKO 8 Jorge Lacierva

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Gavin McDonnell D 12 Josh Wale
Adeilson Dos Santos UD 12 Santiago Allione
(F) Jackie Nava KO 7 Alys Sanchez
JR Magboo UD 10 Angelito Merin
Chris Avalos TKO 8 Yasutaka Ishimoto
Luis Rosa UD 10 Luis Orlando Del Valle
Zsolt Bedak SD 10 Amor Belahdj Ali
Thabo Sonjica KO 1 Toto Helebe
Rey Vargas TKO 6 Vergel Nebran

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Jamie McDonnell TKO 10 Tabtimdaeng Na Rachawat
Diego Santillan UD 10 Diego Liriano
Omar Lamiri MD 12 Anthony Settoul
Paul Butler SD 12 Stuart Hall
Alejandro Hernandez UD 12 Daniel Rosas

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Khalid Yafai KO 3 Yaqub Kareem
David Sanchez UD 12 Breilor Teran
Oleydong Sithsamerchai KO 4 Noli Morales
Rex Tso UD 10 Ratchasak KKP
Carlos Cuadras TD 8 Srisaket Sor Rungvisai
Lwandile Sityatha UD 12 Siphosethu Mvula
Petchbarngborn Kokietgym UD 12 Anis Ceunfin
Warlito Parrenas TKO 7 Junior Bajawa
McJoe Arroyo TKO 11 Hernan Marquez

FLYWEIGHTS

Raymond Tabugon UD 12 Jake Bornea
(F) Shindo Go TKO 8 Kledpetch KKP
(F) Susi Kentikian TKO 9 Dan-Bi Kim
Pedro Guevara SD 12 Armando Torres
Makazole Tete KO 5 Morris Lento
Juan Carlos Reveco UD 12 Felix Alvarado
Kwanpichit OnesongchaiGym TKO 7 Oscar Raknafa
Thomas Masson KO 7 Gregory Beccu

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Jether Oliva MD 10 Wilber Andogan
Yu Kimura UD 10 Yuki Chinen

STRAWWEIGHTS

Go Odaira MD 10 Yuma Iwahashi

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

JULY

Dereck Chisora (left) and Tyson Fury have exchanged barbs. They'll exchange punches on July 26.

GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX VS. SOD KOKIETGYM

July 19 / Venetian Resort, Macau

Division: Junior featherweights (for Rigondeaux's RING, WBA and WBO titles)
TV: BoxNation in the U.K.
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Brian Vilora vs. TBA, flyweights; Gilberto Ramirez Sanchez vs. Junior Talipeau, super middleweights; Zou Shiming vs. TBA, flyweights
Significance: The boxing wizard Rigondeaux (13-0, 8 KOs) has been as dominating as any fighter of late. That probably won't change against Kokietgym (63-2-1, 28 KOs), a 37-year-old who has had only two meaningful fights in his career (losses to Daniel Ponce de Leon in 2005 and 2006).
Prediction: Rosenthal – Rigondeaux KO 9; Fischer – Rigondeaux UD; Satterfield – Rigondeaux KO 1

TYSON FURY VS. DERECK CHISORA II

July 26 / Phones 4U Arena, Manchester, England

Division: Heavyweights
TV: BoxNation in the U.K.
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Billy Joe Saunders vs. Emanuele Blandamura, middleweights; Liam Smith vs. Navid Mansoori, junior middleweights; Gary Sykes vs. Liam Walsh, junior lightweights; Derry Mathews vs. Terry Flanagan, lightweights
Significance: Fury (22-0, 16 KOs) and Chisora (20-4, 13 KOs) aren't particularly gifted heavyweights but their brash, sometimes crude behavior commands attention and has made this an important fight in the U.K. Fury outpointed an overweight Chisora in their first fight three years ago.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Chisora KO 8; Fischer – Fury MD; Satterfield – Chisora KO 9

GENNADY GOLOVKIN VS. DANIEL GEALE

July 26 / Madison Square Garden, New York City

Division: Middleweights (for Golovkin's WBA title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Bryant Jennings vs. Mike Perez, heavyweights
Significance: Golovkin (29-0, 26 KOs) continues to pursue a high-profile fight. For now, he'll have to settle for a solid opponent at a storied venue. Geale (30-2, 16 KOs) lost his IBF title and momentum when he was outpointed by Darren Barker but remains a good boxer-puncher.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Golovkin KO 7; Fischer – Golovkin KO 11; Satterfield – Golovkin KO 10

JULY 25 – Roberto Garcia vs. Breidis Prescott, welterweights, Chicago (ESPN2)
JULY 25 – Antoine Douglas vs. TBA, middleweights (Showtime)
July 26 – Robert Stieglitz vs. Sergey Khomitsky, super middleweights, Dessau, Germany

AUGUST

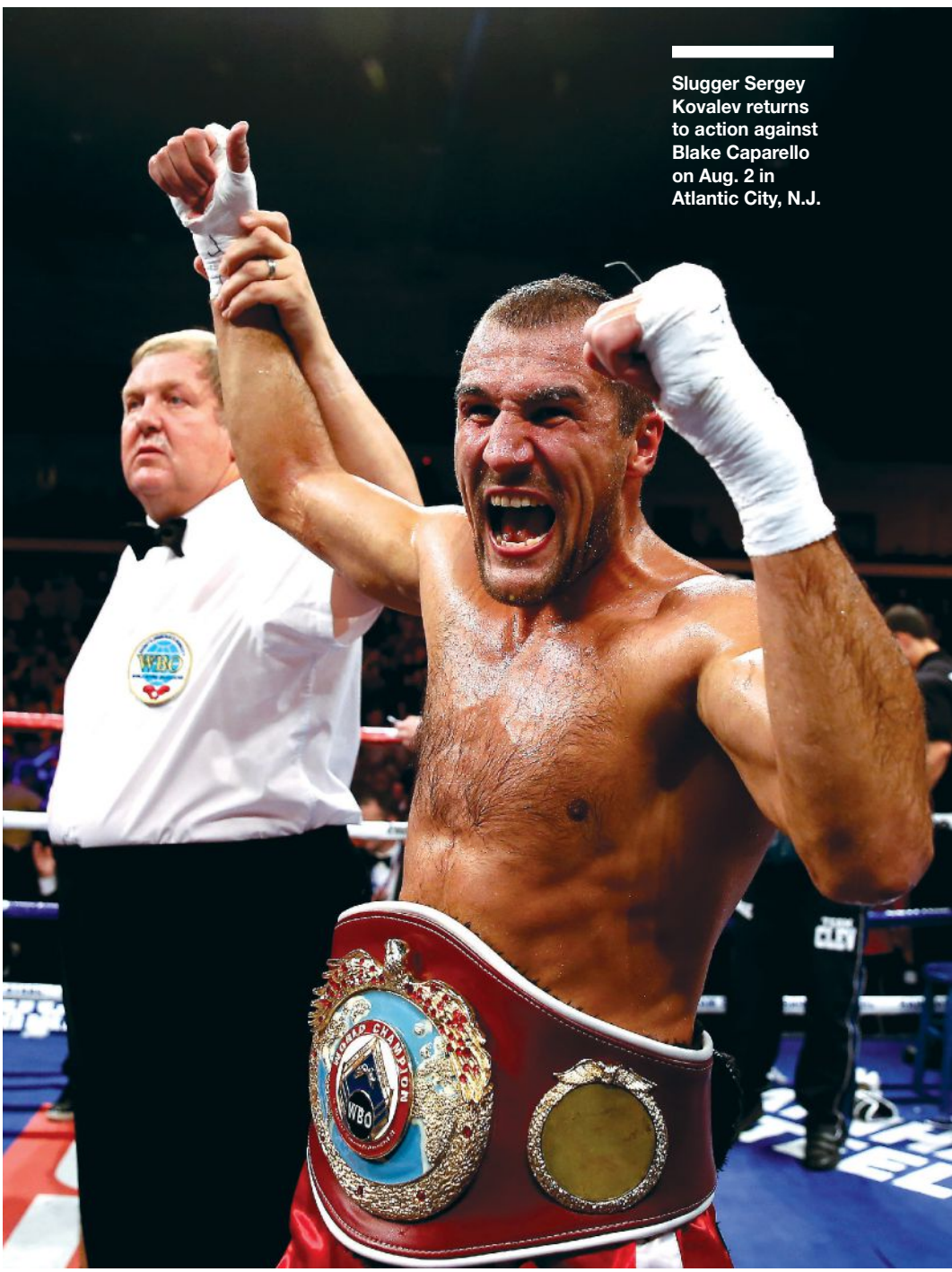
SERGEY KOVALEV VS. BLAKE CAPARELLO

Aug. 2 / Revel Resort, Atlantic City, N.J.
Division: Light heavyweights (for Kovalev's WBO title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Isaac Chilemba vs. Cory Cummings, light heavyweights
Significance: Kovalev (24-0-1, 22 KOs) had his sights set on a lucrative fight with Adonis Stevenson but will have to settle for the light-punching but capable Caparello (19-0-1, 6 KOs), of Australia. Kovalev has stopped eight consecutive opponents; Caparello should become victim No. 9.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Kovalev KO 4; Fischer – Kovalev KO 8; Satterfield – Kovalev KO 10

AUG. 1 – Thomas Williams Jr. vs. Gabriel Campillo, light heavyweights, Shelton, Wash. (ESPN2)
AUG. 1 – Leonard Bundu vs. Frankie Gavin, welterweights, Wolverhampton, England
AUG. 2 – Brandon Rios vs. Diego Chaves, welterweights, Las Vegas (HBO)
AUG. 2 – Jessie Vargas vs. Anton Novikov, junior welterweights, Las Vegas (HBO)
AUG. 9 – Vyacheslav Glazkov vs. TBA, heavyweights, Bethlehem, Pa. (NBC Sports Net)
AUG. 9 – Danny Garcia vs. Rod Salka, junior welterweights (for Garcia's RING, WBC and WBA titles), Brooklyn, N.Y. (Showtime)
AUG. 9 – Lamont Peterson vs. Edgar Santana, junior welterweights (for Peterson's IBF title), Brooklyn, N.Y. (Showtime)
AUG. 9 – Danny Jacobs vs. Jarrod Fletcher, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Showtime)
AUG. 16 – Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Firat Arslan, cruiserweights (for Hernandez's RING and IBF titles), Erfurt, Germany
AUG. 15 – Rustam Nugaev vs. TBA, lightweights, Santa Ynez, Calif. (ESPN2)

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 5 – Akira Yaegashi vs. Roman Gonzalez, flyweights (for Yaegashi's RING and WBC titles), Tokyo
SEPT. 5 – Naoya Inoue vs. Samartlek Kokietgym, junior flyweights (for Inoue's WBC title), Tokyo
SEPT. 6 – Kiko Martinez vs. Carl Frampton, junior featherweights (for Martinez's IBF title), Belfast, Northern Ireland
SEPT. 13 – Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. TBA, welterweights (for Mayweather's RING, WBC and WBA titles), Las Vegas (Showtime PPV)



Slugger Sergey Kovalev returns to action against Blake Caparello on Aug. 2 in Atlantic City, N.J.

CHISORA/FURY: ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES; KOVALEV: SCOTT HEAVEY

GET YOUR PERSONALIZED SIGNED COPY

ORDER YOUR SIGNED BOOK BY ALEX CHOKO, THE AUTHOR WHO TRAVELED THE WORLD TO INTERVIEW 55 BOXING LEGENDS

THE FUTURE OF BOXING
★★★★★

Alexandre Choko
Author & Publisher
Mobile: +1-514-894-7996
alex@futureofboxing.com

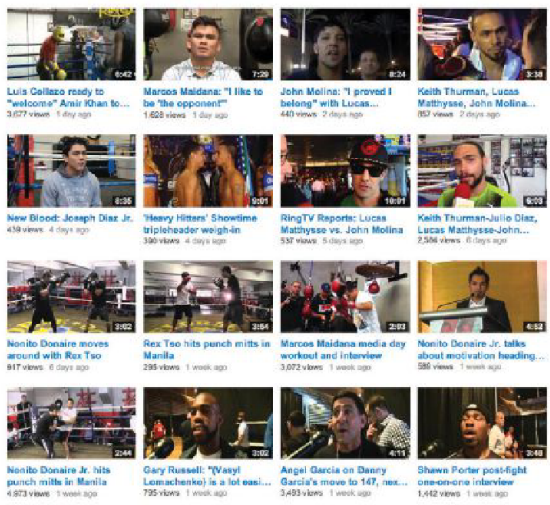
★★★★★

To purchase your copy online, please go to futureofboxing.com

YouTube

Visit THE RING's
new YouTube channel ...

TheRingDigital



BACK ISSUES
BUILD YOUR
COLLECTION

ORDER TODAY!

Ringtv.com • ringbackissues@sepublications.com • (215) 643-3087

BOXERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (BOC)
BOC
FOUNDED 1988

Boxers Organizing Committee (BOC)

Paul Johnson
Executive Director

763-438-2447

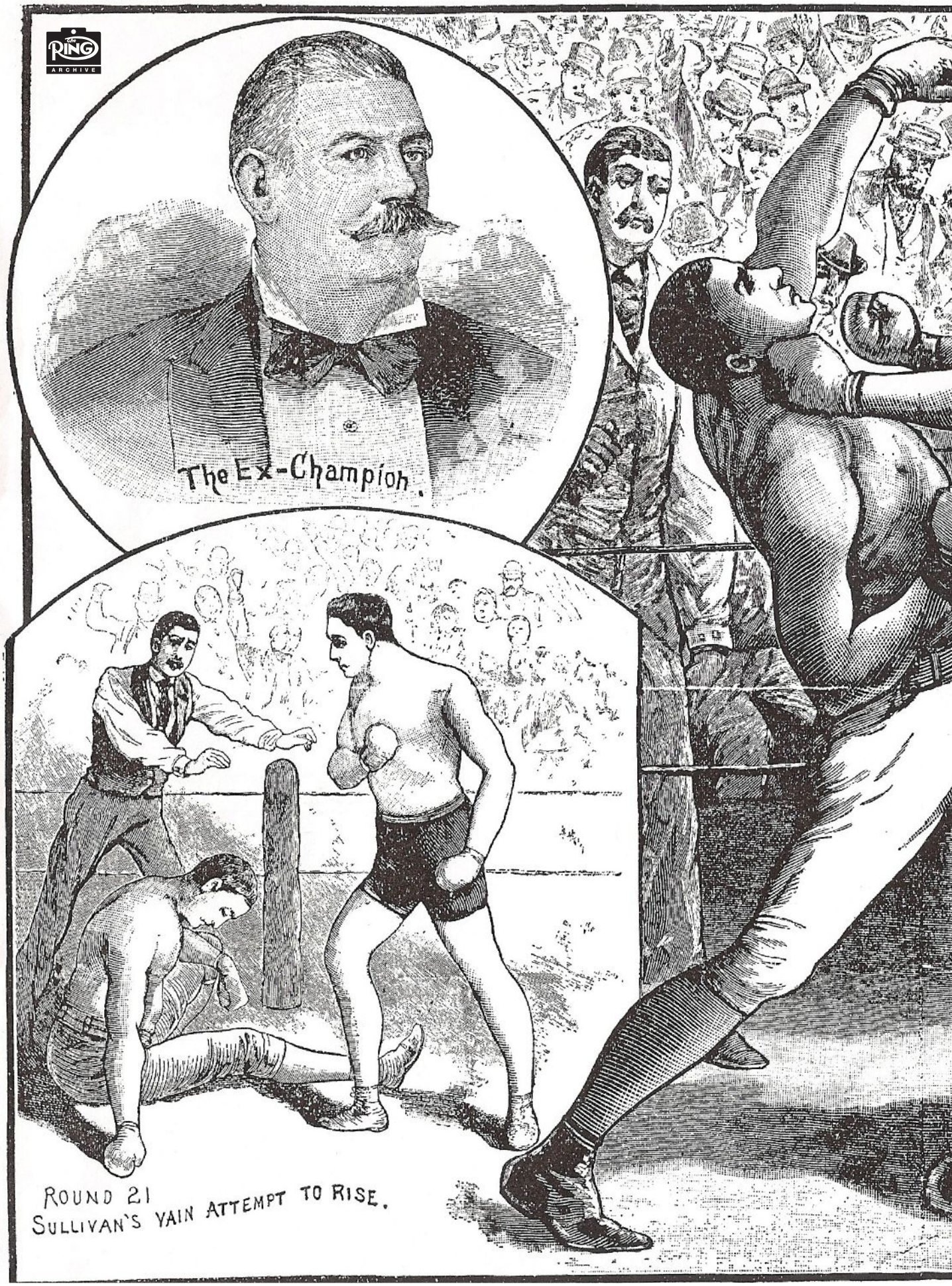
johnson4042@aol.com

www.boxers.org

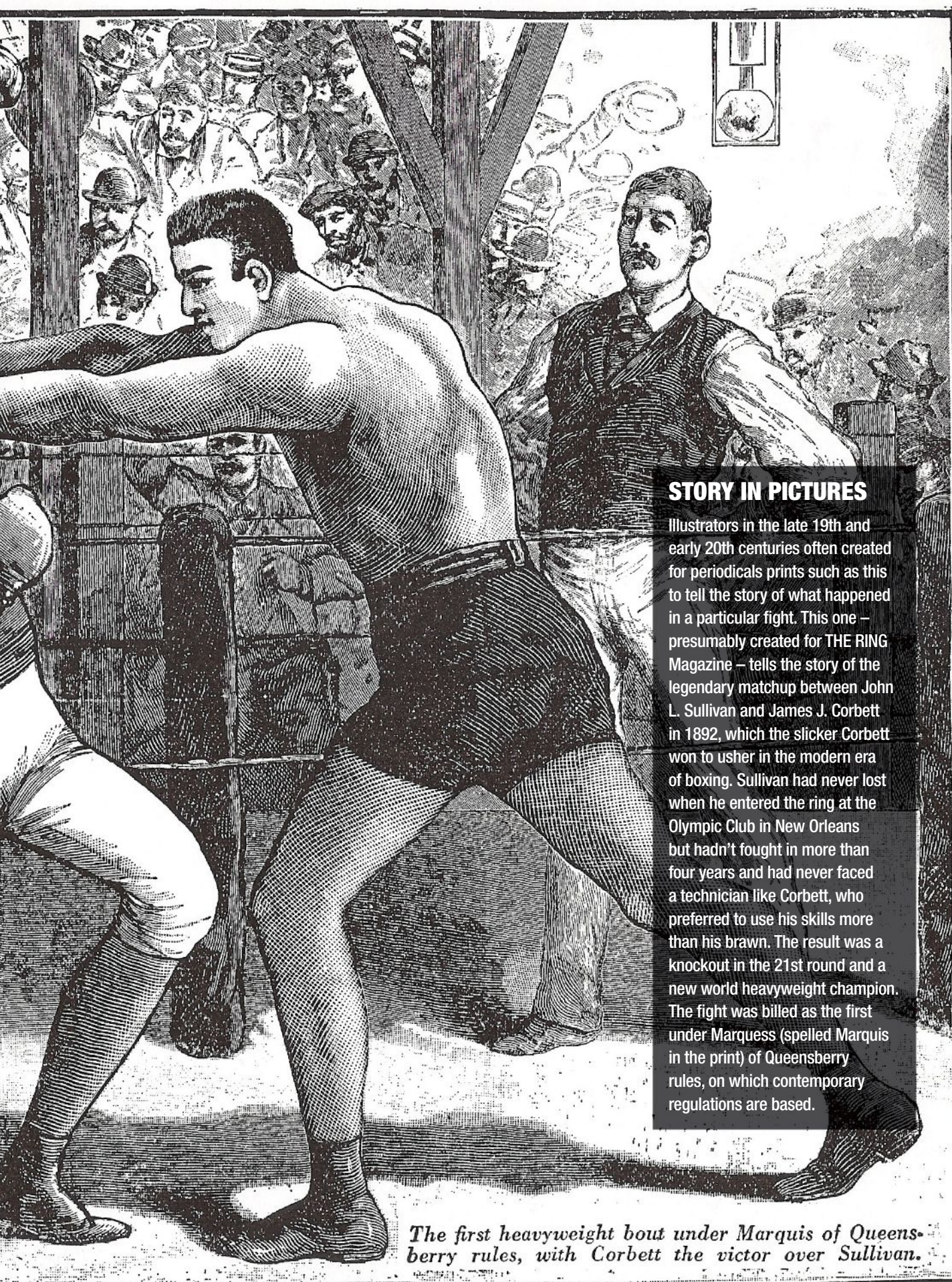
**Attention Boxers:
Please contact us to
discuss your rights!**

"Boxers must be part of the equation."

— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres



ROUND 21
SULLIVAN'S VAIN ATTEMPT TO RISE.



The first heavyweight bout under Marquis of Queensberry rules, with Corbett the victor over Sullivan.

STORY IN PICTURES

Illustrators in the late 19th and early 20th centuries often created for periodicals prints such as this to tell the story of what happened in a particular fight. This one – presumably created for THE RING Magazine – tells the story of the legendary matchup between John L. Sullivan and James J. Corbett in 1892, which the slicker Corbett won to usher in the modern era of boxing. Sullivan had never lost when he entered the ring at the Olympic Club in New Orleans but hadn't fought in more than four years and had never faced a technician like Corbett, who preferred to use his skills more than his brawn. The result was a knockout in the 21st round and a new world heavyweight champion. The fight was billed as the first under Marquess (spelled Marquis in the print) of Queensberry rules, on which contemporary regulations are based.

Corona Extra BOXING

AT THE FIGHTS

1.

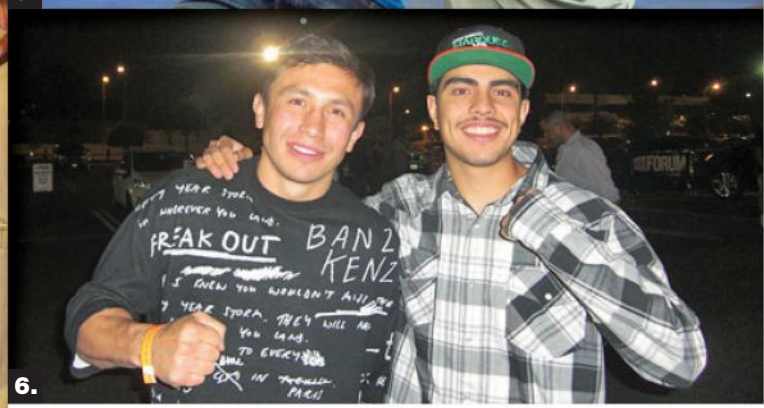
2.

3.

1. Bianca Gonzalez with Manny Pacquiao the night before he fought Brandon Rios on Nov. 24 in Macau, China. **2.** Maria Petrogiannis with Roberto Duran recently in Panama. **3.** Bill Barner (left) with Riddick Bowe during an ESPN card May 1 at Hialeah Park in Hialeah, Fla. **4.** Talha Siddiqui (right) with Floyd Mayweather Jr. on May 1 at the Mayweather Boxing Club in Las Vegas, two days before his fight with Marcos Maidana. **5.** Henry Tolton (right) of Australia with Zab Judah at the Mayweather gym in September. **6.** Roberto Reyes (right) with Gennady Golovkin after the Juan Manuel Marquez-Mike Alvarado card May 17 at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif.

4.

5.



6.

WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN THE RING MAGAZINE?

Send us photos of you posing next to a well-known fighter or other boxing personality and we will consider if for publication in the magazine. Send photos to atthefights@sepublications.com. Make sure to include your name(s), the names of those in the photo, when and where the photo was taken and your contact information. See you at the fights!

IT TAKES SIXTY MINUTES TO COVER
THE WORLD OF SPORTS

60 MINUTES sports™

SHOWTIME®
BRACE YOURSELF

©2014 Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. SHOWTIME and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company.

CONCERTS, SPORTS
& THEATER TICKETS
WWW
BARRYS
TICKETS
.com
(800) 348-8499
ALL MLB, NBA, NFL, NCAA, NASCAR, SUPER BOWL, FINAL FOUR,
ALL STAR GAME & ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS
www.BarrysTickets.com
WWW
BARRYS
TICKETS
.com
Great Tickets! Great Service! Great Prices!
Call (800) 348-8499 or visit BarrysTickets.com for great deals
on concerts, sports and theater tickets, local & nationwide!